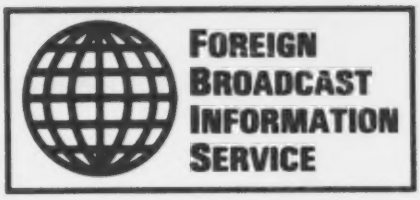

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-157
Monday
15 August 1994

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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-157 *15 August 1994*

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Details of Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Talks Reported

LD1208165694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 12 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Karabakh peace talks in Moscow are going on hard, a senior Russian diplomat told Interfax on Friday.

The-behind-scenes negotiations intended to bring a comprehensive solution to the regional conflict involve Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, with Russian envoy Vladimir Kazimirov acting as mediator.

The diplomat said the sides were wide apart on a number of issues including Baku's demand for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from occupied Azeri lands and the administrative center of Shusha.

He said that one other stumbling block was the problem of refugees not least where they would return and who would control the process. "Apart from sheer technicalities, there are political subtleties", said the diplomat.

Although it is early days yet to speak in terms of when exactly a comprehensive peace deal will be signed, he said, the fact that the negotiating process is on tack causes optimism.

More importantly, he said, the negotiating parties do not tackle larger issues such as Russian-CSCE cooperation or differences between Moscow and the West, but hold a constructive dialogue on the concrete aspects of a would be settlement.

Also on the agenda is the question of the procedure and timetables of troop withdrawals from Nagorno-Karabakh followed by the deployment of CSCE observers and an international security force the core of which will be made up of Russian troops, said the diplomat.

Although Azerbaijan and Armenia have already agreed to the deployment of international peacekeepers in the region, he said, an international mandate is required to do so. " Since the holding of military operations is not envisaged within the CSCE framework, the United Nations can alone issue such a mandate", said the diplomat.

He reaffirmed that agreement was reached to postpone talks on the future of Nagorno-Karabakh. "This is a very complicated issue. "Overall, it will be reflected in the text of the treaty, but any details are subject to separate talks", said the diplomat.

Russia is in favour of providing Nagorno-Karabakh the status of an autonomous republic, but within Azerbaijan.

Diplomat Sees No Settlement in Sight

LD1208133794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 12 Aug 94

[text] The Moscow talks on Karabakh are "not easy", a senior Russian foreign ministry official told INTERFAX Friday.

At the negotiations, mediated by Russian envoy Vladimir Kazimirov, the Azerbaijani, Armenian, and Karabakh delegations have been trying to agree on a comprehensive settlement to the Karabakh conflict.

The talks have been hampered by a rift on a number of issues, including Baku's demand for Yerevan to withdraw its troops from Shusha and other captured Azerbaijani lands.

"The sides also differ on the refugee problem: to which cities refugees should come back, who should control their return, etc," the diplomat said, adding that "apart from pure technicalities, political consideration were also involved."

He said it was too early to say when a major political accord will be reached. "However, the very fact that the negotiations are under way inspires optimism," he said.

He added that the Azerbaijani and Armenian delegations have already consented to the deployment of peace-keepers in Karabakh. However, their positioning requires an international mandate. In the meantime, the CSCE does not envisage military operations, which can be sanctioned by the UN alone.

Agreeement Reached on Peacekeepers

LD1208145694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1326 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Armenian, Azerbaijani, and Karabakh negotiators, meeting in Moscow, have preliminary agreed on international peace guarantees, envisaging the deployment of international observers and disengagement troops in Karabakh, an Azerbaijani president's spokesman has told INTERFAX.

The talks are being mediated by the Russian president's envoy in Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov.

The source said the backbone of the peace-keeping force will be the CSCE, CIS, and Russian troops.

The final decision to this effect is not expected before a eeting of the Azerbaijan and Armenian defense ministers in Moscow this week-end.

Significantly, as the spokesman stressed, Azerbaijan "will give the green light to this option only in the event of getting firm guarantees that the occupied territories, the towns of Shusha and Lachin included, are liberated, and Azerbaijani refugees be able to return there."

If the sides finally agree, the plan to position observers and peace-keepers in Karabakh "can begin to be implemented within two weeks after the signing of a political settlement accord," scheduled for late August.

Talks Termed 'Successful'

NC1308193194 Baku TURAN in English 1727 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, August 13 (TURAN)—Next round of the Armenian-Azeri negotiations, held in Moscow, with

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the mediation of Russian Foreign Ministry, was over today. "This round of negotiations can be considered as successful and resulting," TURAN was told by Vladimir Muzichenko, [name as received] assistant of Russian President's special representative. At the same time he refused to comment on the details of the negotiation.

Commenting on the information of the Armenian agency SNARK about "the resultingless [as received] of the negotiations, because of the inflexibility of the Azeri side", Muzichenko said: "This round was resulting, an agreement was obtained on many issues, a number of items of major political agreement, which will be signed after the negotiations, were agreed".

Vladimir Muzichenko confirmed that the issue concerning Shusha and Lachin has still been discussing and will be solved by the moment of signing the major political agreement.

A meeting of defence ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Moscow, scheduled for this week was adjourned due to some technical reasons, according to TURAN correspondent, referring to Russian Defence Ministry's source.

Official Says Talks Fail

LD1308154694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] At their talks concluded in Moscow on Saturday the representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh failed to agree on most of the fundamental points of accords on ending the armed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh drafted by the CSCE, the CIS and Russia. Interfax learned this from a member of the delegation from Karabakh.

"An agreement failed to be reached because of serious differences in the attitudes of largely Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh," he stressed.

According to Interfax's source, "the Azeris tried to exclude from the draft accords the reference to Nagorno-Karabakh as a conflicting side, though in earlier documents Azerbaijan had recognized Karabakh as a conflicting side." "The effectuation of the entire document gets suspended without Nagorno-Karabakh's being recognized as a conflicting side, which cannot be conducive to political settlement in the region," he said.

During their talks the three sides confirmed that they endorse the plans to deploy international observers and security forces in the conflict area stipulated in the accords. Russian units are expected to serve as their backbone. After that the warring sides will have to withdraw their troops from the occupied territories, unblock roads and allow the refugees to return.

The delegations are expected to return to Moscow after consultations in Baku, Stepanakert and Yerevan, to continue their talks on the draft accords, Interfax's interviewee said. This can happen only when the talks beginning in Vienna on Tuesday in the framework of the Minsk Group for Nagorno-Karabakh are concluded.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 13 Aug

LD1308062494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0610 GMT 13 Aug 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—Newspapers highlight today the situation in the Chechen Republic and Georgia.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries an interview with General Aslanbek Aslakhanov, who, as he put it, has not joined any opposition movements or parties and has expressed to Dudayev on more than one occasion his opinion of the situation of absolutely lawlessness in the republic. According to Aslakhanov, "the Dudayev regime is doomed." "General Dudayev and his team were only holding forth about the revival of the Chechen nation. In fact, they turned out to be the robbers and destroyers of the nation. About all industrial enterprises are at a standstill. People lost their jobs. Hospitals and schools are closed. Land is left without cultivation." For those reasons alone, he believes, it is possible to say that "the Dudayev regime has no future, like everyone who does not care for his nation."

In the opinion of Aslakhanov, a compromise could have been reached between the opposition and Dudayev, who are in confrontation to each other. However, "even if Dzhokhar Dudayev resigns from his post today, his team will not allow it, because many of his associates will have to answer to the nation for what they have done."

Nikolay Grichin, an IZVESTIYA correspondent, reports from Groznyy that a briefing was held there, at which President Dudayev set forth before journalists his idea of the developments in Chechnya. He writes: "Dudayev is sure that by its actions in Chechnya Russia is preparing a platform for unleashing a third world war. According to the president, numerous countries are ready to help the Chechen Republic in every way, up to sending a million of kamikaze fighters. However, the right, delegated to the president, to declare gazavat—a sacred war of moslems against Russia—remains unused so far. According to Dudayev, it is extremely difficult to take this decision."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes a commentary on this subject, which says: "Trying to make peace between the irreconcilable opponents, some influential politicians from the northern Caucasus suggest that they confer both with Dzhokhar Dudayev and Umar Avturkhanov, head of the opposition Provisional Council of the Chechen Republic. It is quite probable that a coalition government will be formed for a period of transition. The problem is that every day of delay (there are a lot of plans, but not much action) brings Chechnya closer to the point, beyond which a war will be inevitable."

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According to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, "Dudayev's drive against the Nadterechnyy District (its residents boycotted the presidential elections and since that time have regarded themselves as being in opposition to the Dudayev regime) may become a signal for moving Russian army units to Chechnya."

Correspondents of IZVESTIYA and ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA write about an extraordinary session of the Georgian Parliament, held on Friday. The session was to discuss the problem of power. "Two weeks ago the opposition minority reduced the problem to Shevardnadze's resignation from his posts of the head of state and chairman of Parliament, accusing him of favouring Georgia's defeat and capitulation, of bringing about an economic collapse and other numerous hardships the Republic is living through," the IZVESTIYA correspondent writes. The session was not held, because there was no quorum, but "contrary to the expectations, the opposition reacted calmly to it." In the opinion of the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent, "in September, when the Parliament resumes its work, the hunt for Shevardnadze will be intensified."

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Byelorussian [Belarusian] President Alexander Lukashenka. "We should preserve carefully today any, even the slightest form of the unification of the former USSR republics. The CIS is the only thing left and the only thing that is keeping us together. This is why we should strengthen and expand the new commonwealth," he said.

The president told about measures to be taken to achieve an economic stabilisation in the Republic and praised the results of his first working meeting with the Russian president.

Anatoliy Lukyanov, ex-chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Oleg Shenin, former secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who were both involved in the State Emergency Committee trial, comment in PRAVDA on the verdict of non-guilty, passed by the court on the case of General Valentin Varennikov.

Newspapers publish in their international sections reports from Warsaw, Beijing, London and other capitals.

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Official Denies Lebed Dismissed From 14th Army

LD1208195394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Colonel-General Eduard Vorobyov, deputy commander-in-chief of Russia's land forces, has denied that Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed has been dismissed as commander of the Russian 14th Army stationed in Moldova's province of Transdniestria.

At a news briefing in Moscow on Friday, Vorobyov said he could not understand the stir in the media over his recent trip to the Transdniestrian capital Tiraspol, which "had to do with the directive of the Russian defense minister to bring the command structure of the 14th Army into conformity with the nature of the units that are actually stationed in the region." Lebed, on holiday till August 25, was informed about the directive on July 25, Vorobyov said.

He said the 14th Army was approximately equal in size to a division while its body of commanders was larger than normal by 50 to 60 percent. It was planned to form a comparatively small unit on the basis of the army, and it had been the aim of his visit to give its personnel details of the plan, Vorobyov said.

Lebed Returns to Tiraspol as Commander

LD1308120894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed has today returned to Tiraspol. As an ITAR-TASS correspondent learned at the 14th Russian Army headquarters, he will continue to be commander of the Army. There have been many rumors about General Lebed lately. After his departure for Moscow, Tiraspol inhabitants thought the independently minded general would never come back to command the 14th Army.

Yeltsin Praises Lebed's Role

LD1508091494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has highly assessed the role of the Russian 14th Army and Aleksandr Lebed, its commander, in the Dniester region. The president said in an interview with INTERFAX that he will never forget the role of the 14th Army and its commander in preventing large-scale bloodshed in Moldova in 1992. The fact that the situation there is now under control testifies to the great role Aleksandr Lebed has played there. The president unequivocally stated that an artificial aggravation of the situation by any kind of actions or decisions would be inadmissible. The price for this would be too high, the president pointed out in an interview with INTERFAX during his trip to the towns along the Volga River.

Moscow Preparing To Pull Troops Out of Moldova

MK1308090394 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 2

[Pavel Felgengauer report in the "Exodus" column: "The Last Round of Russian-Moldovan Talks. Moscow Is Preparing Its Brigades for Pullout"]

[Text] General Eduard Vorobyev, first deputy commander of Ground Forces, who yesterday returned to Moscow after talks in Kishinev [Chisinau] and Tiraspol, toid journalists that "the 10th round of Russian-Moldovan negotiations will apparently be the last one." The main agreements regulating the status of Russian Federation troops in Moldova and their gradual withdrawal have already been initialed. Now experts of the two countries will be preparing a specific schedule for the pullout and disbandment of units of the former 14th Army, conducting ecological appraisals, coordinating the schedule for railway transit with Ukraine, and so forth.

The initialed agreements have not as yet been officially approved by the governments of Russia or Moldova, and therefore the place and time of their signing are not known yet. Neither is it clear whether parliamentary ratification will be needed: According to General Vorobyev, "it seems that it will be in Kishinev, and apparently not in Moscow." He admitted however that because the delegation of the Dniester Moldovan Republic [DMR] pulled out of the talks and did not participate in signing the agreements, there is no guarantee that DMR authorities will not obstruct the withdrawal of Russian troops. "But we do not envision a forced withdrawal," Eduard Vorobyev said, "and both Moldova and the DMR see their future as lying in cooperation with Russia, and in all likelihood, we shall manage to come to terms." Pontoon and engineer brigades are to be pulled out first because, according to the general, "they are not needed in the Dniester region." It is also possible that "soon Russia will downsize its peacekeeping forces in the region," he stated.

General Vorobyev submitted to the Russian Federation Defense Ministry leadership a plan whereby the command of the 14th Army will be cut 60 percent, and reorganized as an operational group. He also wrote in his report that "the officers' assembly insists that General Lebed be present in the process of the army's disbandment." Eduard Vorobyev suggested that some officers of the 14th Army staff do not want to move to Russia because in the DMR they have been getting a 150 percent monetary allowance. The general has met with DMR President Igor Smirnov, and the latter does not seem to object to the disbandment of the 14th army command. However the first deputy commander so far does not know exactly whether General Lebed will return to the Dniester region or whether Russian troops will be called an army in the future.

Eduard Vorobyev noted that he does not remember a situation when a general who has not graduated from the

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General Staff Academy should be in command of a Ground Force army. Therefore Aleksandr Lebed will have to "take a little training" unless of course the command decides otherwise.

Commander Explains Treaty on Withdrawal

LD1208194994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—A treaty on the legal status, procedure and time of withdrawal of Russian troops from Moldova will be submitted to the Russian and Moldovan Governments for signing in the near future, first deputy commander-in-chief of the troops temporary stationed in Moldova Colonel-General Eduard Vorobyev told a news conference here today.

In his words, the treaty and other agreements have been coordinated by the 10th round of the Russian-Moldovan negotiations held on August 9-10 in Kishinev [Chisinau]. The treaty takes into account technical abilities and time necessary for accommodation of troops at their new settlements.

The withdrawal will be done within three years after the treaty enters into force. "Withdrawal measures will be synchronized with political settlement of the trans-Dniester conflict and establishment of a special status of the Moldovan trans-Dniester region," said the general.

The delegations have also [word indistinct] the agreements on transportation of the Russian troops and military cargo in connection with their withdrawal to Russia, as well as an agreement on flight activities of the Russian armed units and their use of the Tiraspol airfield. In the opinion of Vorobyev, these agreements "Set the parameters of a mechanism of the future troops withdrawal from Moldovan territory".

Administration of 14th Army in Dniester Reduced

LD1508110294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0841 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Aug—The administrative structure of the 14th Russian Army stationed in the Dniester region is to be revamped. A plan drawn up by the ground forces' main command calls for the army's administrative establishment to be cut back from 234 to 100 men. It also proposes the creation of an operations group to administer Russian military units temporarily stationed on Moldovan territory. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this today by the press center of Russia's ground forces.

The press center says the military formation known as an army traditionally consists of three to five motor rifle divisions and a number of auxiliary subunits. On the territory of Moldova there are currently 15 Russian military units, which does not add up to full army strength. The units comprise, notably, a motor rifle division, a floating bridge brigade, and a combat engineer brigade. The main command of ground forces thinks it unnecessary to retain the army's full administrative structure when the military units and detachments of the 14th Army are below strength. According to the press center, the reform of the administrative establishment is also dictated by the need for a gradual withdrawal of Russian military units from the territory of Moldova.

The press center says the main command did not examine the question of removing Aleksandr Lebed from the post of army commander during the planned changes.

Ministry Denies Plutonium Smuggling Reports

LD1508114794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Russia's Ministry for Atomic Energy expressed surprise over western media reports that weapon-grade plutonium had been smuggled from Russia to Germany.

Georgiy Kaurov, head of the ministry's Public-Relations Department, told Interfax that no losses of plutonium or weapon-grade uranium had been registered at atomic energy enterprises.

He also said that although the German authorities had expressed concern over the arrival in Germany of smugglers of nuclear materials, they had not sent Russia any official documents confirming that the detained plutonium or uranium had been produced in Russia.

"Germany has never sent us the results of its examinations," he said. "If it cannot make the checks, or determine the origin of the materials on its own, it should pass samples of these substances to Russian specialists," he went on to say.

It is strange, he said, that all instances of smuggling nuclear materials occurred in Germany, and that nothing of the kind has happened in other countries.

The latest instance of smuggling plutonium was registered in Germany on August 10, when three passengers were arrested in Munich. They arrived in that city from Moscow on a Lufthansa airliner.

Kaurov said that to this day Germany had not informed Russia what amount of nuclear materials had been found. Some of the western media allege 100 grams of plutonium had been confiscated, others said 300 grams and still others 500 grams, he said.

Cooperation With U.S. on CW Destruction Discussed

MM1508104594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate: "Session at the Defense Ministry"]

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[Text] A session of the interdepartmental commission on problems of the destruction of chemical weapons [CW] was held on 11 August at the Russian Federation Defense Ministry with Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff in the chair. The commission was set up under the Russian Federation Defense Ministry by the Russian Government in the spring. Colonel General Stanislav Petrov, chief of the radiation, chemical, and biological protection forces, delivered a report.

During the session the directions of future cooperation between the Russian Defense Ministry and the U.S. Defense Department on chemical disarmament matters were identified. There was support for the Russian Defense Ministry's proposals on developing joint Russian-American technologies to ensure safe and ecologically clean destruction of chemical weapons on the basis of existing studies in the two countries. The representatives of interested ministries participating in the commission's work also examined some other matters of practical interest.

[signed] Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate.

Post-COCOM System Seen Disadvantageous for Russia

MM1208124594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 3

[Article by Gennadiy Khromov: "What Price Russia's Participation in New COCOM?"]

[Text] From March 1994 the infamous COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] system ceased to exist. Having come into being during the Cold War, it had simply become obsolete.

However, several industrially developed countries want to have a new post-COCOM system. It should prevent advanced technologies, which could also be used for military purposes (the so-called dual-purpose technologies), from falling into the hands of those who do not like the present status, existing borders, or simply the political system of neighboring countries. Obviously, such a formulation of the question has to be supported.

At the same time the lifting of export restrictions promises enormous additional profits for companies from the industrial states. For example, U.S. experts estimate that by expanding the supply of computer equipment beyond the previous COCOM limits, the United States will earn an additional $1 billion a year.

It is, however, hard to imagine our economy gaining early benefits from what is as a whole a progressive line of development for world trade. It is most likely that a country where industrial output has more than halved recently, and even more in the defense complex, will not be able to assimilate new technologies effectively. But since it is likely that industrial decline will continue for a comparatively long time to come, it can be claimed that the opportunities which are opening up for the import of Western technologies will not be utilized to the required degree in the near future.

But as far as our own advanced technologies are concerned, the Western companies with an interest in using them were acquiring them when the COCOM restrictions were in operation and will obviously continue to act in a similar manner in the future. After all it is no secret that the sale of these technologies is inflicting losses on our state as we supply them for hardly anything (or even give them away free).

Negative examples from this sector are widely known. Such "gifts" from us as the "Topaz" nuclear space installation, means of medical and biological support for manned long-haul space missions, and technologies for producing modern liquid-fuel engines for rockets, are allowing the United States to save billions of dollars.

In this way, the emerging post-COCOM situation is beneficial primarily for the Western countries. This is obviously why official statements appeared about the necessity to devise a new system with Russia's mandatory participation: This will give the West political benefit, it was claimed, but Russia will just the same not be able to utilize the new system's advantages. However, these loud statements have as yet not been backed up by deeds. The time for bringing the new system into force is already near at hand, and our country has still not actually been allowed to participate in its organization. Working groups, which are preparing the new system, meet regularly in the Western capitals but on the whole without the participation of Russian specialists. What is more, they want to "sell" us membership of the post-COCOM system in exchange for abandoning our traditional arms markets.

When we talk about this we are, of course, not talking about breaking the embargo established by the United Nations on arms deliveries to Libya, Iraq, and Yugoslavia or on trading with these countries. But the West would like even more. It has now defined the countries to which "arms deliveries are undesirable." Cuba, the DPRK, Iran, and several other states have been included on the lists. And yet, Russia played the leading role in supplying arms to these countries.

Don't our so-called partners want too much from us?

Yeltsin To Pay 'Secret' Visit to UK

MM1208143094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev: "Boris Yeltsin Will Pay a Brief, Secret Visit to Britain"]

[Text] London—The president of Russia will pay a visit to Britain which, to judge from the way it is being prepared, will prove to be a visit behind closed doors. Boris Yeltsin will spend just over 24 hours in foggy

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Albion—he will arrive Saturday 24 September and leave the very next day—and for almost all this time he will be out of reach of the British general public.

According to information from informed sources, the British side is insisting that the visit take place in just this way. The main talks with John Major will be conducted at Chequers, the out-of-town residence of British premiers, to which not even the press is admitted. From the British viewpoint, this will be intended to lend special frankness to the talks and, consequently, make them productive.

The possibility cannot be ruled out that the Russian president will still put in an appearance in London—for an audience with Queen Elizabeth II—but such audiences also constitute an extremely closed event.

However extensive the agenda of the talks with the prime minister might be, the British do not conceal the fact that Boris Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Britain is portentous in that it completes the preparations for a truly historic event—the British queen's visit to Russia in October. Previously both Elizabeth II and her predecessors categorically refused to set foot on Russian soil—in protest at the Bolsheviks' assassination of Nicholas II, a close relative of the British royal family.

Few local commentators have failed to draw attention to the fact that the queen has nonetheless agreed to visit our country specifically in response to an invitation from Yeltsin, during whose party rule in Sverdlovsk the Ipatyevs' home, where the last Russian czar and his family were shot, was demolished.

Yeltsin will leave London for New York, where he will address the UN General Assembly session, and will then go straight to Washington for a meeting with "friend Bill," U.S. President Clinton.

Russia Pushes For Lifting Sanctions Against FRY

LD1208152994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 12 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Russian diplomats in New York are doing their utmost to kill the draft resolution on new anti-Belgrade sanctions.

On Friday a high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry officer told INTERFAX that a group of Muslim and non-aligned nations were pushing for the introduction of more sanctions against the United [as received] Republic of Yugoslavia and, formally speaking, the source said, that was what the third ministerial meeting on Yugoslavia called for. The Foreign Ministers of Russia, the United States and member-nations of the European Union agreed, in Geneva, to toughen their strategies for Belgrade if the Bosnian Serbs decided to reject the contact group's scenario for peace. The Bosnian Serbs did reject the peace plan. But the situation changed dramatically, the source said, once Belgrade drew a line between their and its own policies and introduced, in fact, sanctions of its own against the Bosnian Serbs.

According to the source, the Muslim and non-aligned nations disregarded the new status-quo. They put more heat on the Security Council when commander Michael Rose of the UN contingent in Yugoslavia warned both the Bosnian Serbs and Muslims that NATO aircraft could raid their positions unless they stopped hostilities in the 20-kilometer security zone around Sarajevo. The warning must have put on the alert those who openly sympathized with the Bosnian Muslims. It brought them to act, the diplomat said.

Under the circumstances the source saw the introduction of new sanctions against Belgrade as illogical, if not counter-productive. He said it would deal "a mortal blow" on Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic whose moves for the isolation of the Bosnian Serb community had already irritated Patriarch Pavel of the Serb Orthodox Church.

Instead of stepping them up, the source said, the Security Council ought to lift the anti-Belgrade sanctions. In line with the decisions of the third ministerial meeting on Yugoslavia, the Security Council was preparing a resolution on the introduction of new sanctions and another—on the lifting of the sanctions against Belgrade. Russia, said the Russian Foreign Ministry source, would be pushing in favor of the second document.

Lifting of Embargo on Bosnian Muslims Seen Unlikely

MM1208191994 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 1

[Article by Yuriy Stroyev, based on news agency reports, under the "Main World Event" rubric: "Department of State Threatens, Russian Foreign Ministry Salutes"]

[Text] U.S. Department of State spokesman McCurry recently told journalists that at present the countries belonging to the contact group on Bosnia have not agreed on a deadline for toughening sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs or on the possible lifting of the embargo on arms deliveries to the Bosnian Muslims. At the same time he threatened that in a month or two the United States, along with other powers, will undertake actions to punish the Bosnian Serbs if they reject the international peace plan for Bosnia.

The tactic of a "double standard" with regard to the Yugoslav crisis prevails today not just in U.S. policy. It has become a typical feature of the conduct of virtually the entire world community, including Russia. It would seem that not even the long-awaited firm stand by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Serb question has stood the test. Washington yelled: "Don't you dare"—followed by shooting, sanctions, and Churkin's face aggrieved at...the Serbs.

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Then, on Thursday [11 August], in an interview with INTERFAX, Grigoriy Karasin, the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's official spokesman, declared that "Belgrade has taken a brave stand in response to the Bosnian Serbs' virtual rejection of the international plan." "Belgrade has, in point of fact, applied sanctions against them. In these conditions it would be illogical, to say the least, to continue international sanctions against Belgrade itself," he emphasized. Such a stand, if it really promoted a peace settlement, would be highly opportune. But in this case the same old "double standard" operates: Guns for the Muslims; guns trained on the Serbs. In any case this will not make it possible to effectively combat those who are really to blame for kindling the military conflict in that country. Moreover, the United States does not intend to extinguish it. On the contrary, the first retreat by Belgrade, so welcomed by the "civilized world," could be followed by the start of an offensive against Belgrade itself by that same world.

Meanwhile, more and more new reports of fierce fighting in northern Bosnia are coming in. Government troops under Muslim command have launched an offensive. These are the forces that the United States wants to free from the embargo on arms deliveries. Still the war continues to this whole accompaniment of peacemaking threats.

U.S. President Clinton has set a final deadline for the Serbs to accept the peace plan—15 October. If the Bosnian Serbs do not accept the peace plan by then, at the end of October he will raise with the United Nations the question of lifting the embargo on arms deliveries to the Bosnian Muslims.

The United States, however, does not at present have that much chance of securing a majority of votes in the UN Security Council to get it to adopt a resolution lifting the embargo against the Bosnian Muslims, even if none of the permanent members of the Security Council imposes a veto.

Yugoslavia Neighbors Said Harboring CIA 'Spy Planes'

MM1508100794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Yevgeniy Fadeyev: "CIA Does Not Receive Dollars for Nothing. U.S. Spy Bases Sited in Croatia"]

[Text] Belgrade—When information was obtained from Albania a year ago about a U.S. CIA operation, it was not followed by any reaction. The announcement fitted in with the many sordid acts linked with the war in Bosnia.

There was talk that the Albanian authorities had told the CIA that they would harbor two unmanned spy planes. The aim being to gather reconnaissance information and monitor potential targets on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The unmanned planes' duties included monitoring the airspace above the territory of Macedonia, Montenegro, southern Serbia, and, of course, Bosnia.

A few months ago the CIA decided to redeploy the spy planes stationed in Albania. To where? That remained secret. But it recently became clear. The special aircraft have turned up at a secret base in Croatia, Croatia's SLOBODNA DALMACIJA reported.

Belgrade's VECERNJE NOVOSTI, citing a number of Western diplomatic sources, has just given the details of the CIA's activity in the former Yugoslav republic. In order to monitor events in Bosnia the unmanned spy plane base was located in a secret bay in the Adriatic. It is still not known which one. The Belgrade newspaper claimed that the the supreme command of the "blue helmets" and even UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali was notified of these CIA air operations.

Top generals from NATO bases in Italy recently visited Zagreb. The contents of a secret meeting with representatives of the "blue helmet" staff and the Croatian military remained secret. Nonetheless it became known that agreement was reached inter alia on increasing the unmanned spy planes' sorties over the former Yugoslavia.

Where else are there CIA bases around the former Yugoslavia? In Bulgaria? During CIA Director J. Woolsey's first-ever visit to Sofia, the newspaper 24 [CHASA] claims, the issue of Bulgaria's "giving over" its territory for electronic espionage during the military actions in neighboring Yugoslavia was examined with the country's leaders. In either case the CIA's headquarters in the Balkans has moved from Belgrade to Sofia, Bulgaria's DUMA reports.

Kaliningrad Port on 'Verge of Stoppage'

MM1508102194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Kaliningrad Port Workers Send SOS Signals to Moscow"]

[Text] Through the fault of the Lithuanian authorities who have established excessively high rates for rail transit of Russian goods across their territory, Kaliningrad, Europe's biggest sea trading port, is on the verge of stoppage.

The maritime transport department in Moscow explained that in early July the Lithuanian railroads established a strict procedure for levying so-called transit payments. Here it is considerably more expensive to bring in export goods to the Russian port of Kaliningrad than to the Lithuanian port of Klaipeda. For instance, for the transit of one tonne of freight for Kaliningrad (a distance of 232 km) Russians must pay eight Swiss francs while for Klaipeda (a distance of 423 km) they pay 2.67 francs.

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Russian exporters note that with this difference in tariffs they cannot use Kaliningrad port for the export of their freight and are obliged to switch freight to the ports of the Baltic countries, particularly Klaipeda.

Arkadiy Mikhaylov, the port's general director, believes that Vilnius is deliberately trying to discriminate against Kaliningrad port and to entice to the Baltic ports the most important exporters from the CIS countries. Why? Port business throughout the world today is a very profitable one. As a whole our fleet transports about 50 million tonnes of dry freight for export, which is about 10 percent of all Russian freight. Much of it passes through Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. And payment for shipments of Russian freight alone across their territories is the main source of currency revenue for these republics' budgets. Hence the Lithuanians' direct interest in suppressing Russian port activity in Kaliningrad and saving their own in Klaipeda.

The damage which Lithuania has caused to Russia because of stoppages at Kaliningrad port has already amounted to about $1 million. And that figure is increasing with every passing day.

Kamil Bekyashev, an IZVESTIYA expert and professor of international law, believes that in this case Lithuania is violating two universally accepted principles of international law: ensuring free access for Russia to its own territory and free movement of transport on Lithuanian railroads.

According to the convention on transit trade of landlocked states, all states must be given unrestricted right of access to their territory surrounded by the territory of another state. Transit traffic is not subject to customs duty and taxes. States must take every step to avoid delays or restrictions in transit traffic. The convention permits the setting of tolls but they must accord as far as possible with the expenses which they are intended to cover. Such tolls should not be discriminatory.

IZVESTIYA was told at the maritime transport department that all attempts by Russian port workers, exporters, and forwarding agents to obtain the same discounts as the port of Klaipeda have not been crowned by success. The Lithuanians continue to pump money out of Russia.

The maritime transport department's numerous written appeals to the Russian Government on rendering aid to the port in reaching agreement with the Lithuanians on reducing tariffs have been submerged in the top offices of the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Railroads. "The chief is on vacation," was the reply IZVESTIYA got from the secretary of one leader of the Ministry of Railroads.

The Russian Foreign Ministry admitted honestly that it knows nothing about the needs of the Kaliningrad port workers. Our diplomats were surprised: Why had the members of the group of Russian negotiators representing the oblast administration not said a word about the situation which has taken shape over the port?

"The next round of talks with Lithuania," a Foreign Ministry spokesman assured us, "is planned in Kaliningrad. It is there, on the spot, that we shall discuss the situation regarding the Russian port."

What do the Kaliningrad port workers want from the Russian Government? They are asking it to get the authorities to repeal the discriminatory tariffs on rail transit. And, with a view to avoiding conflicts with the Baltic states, to restrict the volumes of Russian exports passing across Lithuanian territory.

The question of the rapid and undiscriminatory passage of Russian freight across Lithuanian territory should be decided bilaterally by signing a special agreement, IZVESTIYA's expert believes. This agreement could be based on a treaty on international rail freight communications which would be binding both for Russia and Lithuania.

Kolokolov: UN Should Appreciate Changes in Iraq

LD1208150594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Russia wants the UN Security Council to appreciate what it sees as the "positive changes" in Baghdad's position. In September the Security Council is to discuss the observation of its anti-Iraqi sanctions.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov told INTERFAX that the Rolf Eckeus commission saw progress in the realization of Security Council "disarmament" resolution 687. The Eckeus commission faced no more than the smallest of problems, Kolokolov said.

Nonetheless, Kolokolov refrained from predicting the outcome of the Security Council discussion now that the United States had taken a very tough stand on the matter. Even though the Eckeus commission searched far and wide, the Americans, Kolokolov said, seemed to fear that Iraq could have hidden something from it.

A short while ago in Moscow Kolokolov explained Moscow's position to his Iraqi counterpart Riyad Casey [name as received].

To rejoin the international community, Kolokolov said, Baghdad must officially recognize independent and sovereign Kuwait, as well as the UN-finalized border between Iraq and Kuwait, and help clear up the fate of an estimated 609 missing Kuwaiti citizens.

According to Kolokolov, Vice-Premier Tariq Aziz' emissary Riyad Casey pledged to brief the Iraqi leaders on the Russian position. In a little more than one year, Kolokolov said, Casey paid three visits to Moscow. This time President Saddam Husayn instructed him to brief

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Moscow on the changes in the Iraqi approach to the Security Council resolutions on the post-war gulf settlement.

Kolokolov failed to predict how Baghdad would take Moscow's call for meeting the international community's demands. He found it difficult to make predictions, he said, and even if he knew something, he had no right to reveal it yet. Let's wait and see, he suggested.

Arms Sales to Kuwait 'Most Profitable Deals'

MM1208130094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Commentary by Viktor Litovkin: "Tula 'Smerches' in Kuwaiti Desert"]

[Text] The contract signed by the Russian state company "Rosvooruzheniye" and the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry for the delivery to Kuwait of a consignment of BMP-3 infantry fighting vehicles [IFV's] and "Smerch" multiple rocket launchers has become something of a sensation. While the sale of 18 MiG-29's to Malaysia was discussed in the press for three years, almost nothing was known about the preparation of a new trade agreement until the last minute.

Even now, when the contract has already been signed, the "Rosvooruzheniye" state company is refusing to state its value and the volumes of and deadlines for the deliveries of Russian combat equipment to the south of the Arabian peninsula. However, I think these restrictions are temporary. Russia, like many other countries, now annually reports to the United Nations the volumes of its weapons delivered abroad, and we will be able to find out these figures officially.

True, according to independent expert estimates, the contracts signed with Kuwait are the "Rosvooruzheniye" state company's "most profitable deals" this year. While the MiG's sold to Malaysia are valued at $650 million, it is assumed that the consignment of BMP-3's and "Smerch" multiple rocket launchers will be handed over in exchange for 700-800 million "greenbacks." This is indeed a sizable sum. Considering the fact that in the first half of this year the company signed contracts worth $1.5 billion, the present addition testifies to the fact that the Russian arms trade is starting to get out of its state of crisis.

It is also noteworthy that examples of the world's most powerful multiple rocket launchers such as the "Smerch" rocket system, which was developed at Tula's "Splav" enterprise and which is the great-great-grandson of the legendary "Katyusha," never used to be delivered abroad by the Soviet Union—either to socialist camp countries or to any others. They were taken into service in 1987, they form the basis of the Russian Supreme High Command artillery reserve, and until recently they were deemed top secret. The fact that they will become part of the Kuwaiti Army next year is very indicative. It indicates that Russia is returning to world arms markets not with those systems that are being taken out of service but with the most modern systems. Moreover, according to information available to me, Russia is committing itself to improving combat equipment delivered abroad in parallel with the modernizations which will take place within the country. There is another innovation which will interest labor collectives—the producers of Russian weapons. The lion's share (up to 90 percent) of foreign currency earnings for the delivery of combat equipment to distant foreign countries will go into the accounts of the enterprises and design bureaus which developed and produced this equipment, as well as into the accounts of the plants supplying the components for it.

So in my view the deal for "Smerches" concluded by "Rosvooruzheniye" will gladden not only Tula but also Perm, where the launcher for them is made, the Kovrovskiy "Signal" All-Union Scientific Research Institute which developed the vehicle's computer system, as well as Minsk Automobile Plant workers, Ukrainian metallurgists from Nikopol....

In the south Urals city of Kurgan, virtually all of whose industry consists of military-industrial complex enterprises, people in the know claim that only one plant is operating—the one that makes IFV's. It is only there that workers and engineers regularly receive the money they have earned. After all, their products are already reaching the United Arab Emirates and this year will go to the Kuwaiti Army.

In a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Petr Stegniy described the arms sold by Russia as "exclusively defensive" for the country to which he is posted. Although one cannot help thinking that a powerful state defense system cannot be created by individual categories of weapons, be they ultramodern and the best in the world.

That is why it will come as no sensation to many observers if in the near future Kuwait announces its wish to acquire Russian aircraft, surface-to-air missile systems, air-cushion craft for defending its coastline, and small arms. But let us not count our chickens.

China Said To Spend $5 Billion on Russian Arms

MM1208132194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "China May Delight Russian Defense Sector and Really Upset Washington"]

[Text] Beijing—Trade turnover between Russia and China has fallen sharply this year. But the arms trade is the one bright spot against this uninspiring backdrop. A journal published in Hong Kong with Beijing's assistance claims that the PRC has allocated $5 billion for the acquisition of Russian weapons and military technology.

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What types of combat hardware are on the list of planned purchases? The Su-30 fighter-bomber, air-defense missile systems, and in-flight refueling systems.

The new orders are expected to strengthen ties between the two powers in the sphere of military-technical cooperation. According to foreign military analysts, Chinese purchases of Russian weapons in 1992-1993 were worth $3-5 billion. These included Su-27 fighters and S-300 surface-to-air missile systems.

If Beijing is really planning to renew its arsenal with Moscow's participation, this is good news for our military-industrial complex. But there will be drawbacks too. After all, the PRC is involved in territorial disputes with almost all its neighbors. The islands in the South China Sea which are claimed by Vietnam and four other states apart from the PRC are one remaining potential hot spot. There were recent clashes there this summer, when Vietnam—illegally in Beijing's opinion—seized several Chinese fishing vessels.

While buying modern aircraft from Russia, the Chinese Army is acquiring an ability to project sea power far from the Chinese coast. It is not surprising that this is causing nervousness in Southeast Asia and Japan, as well as dissatisfaction in the Pentagon. There are more and more calls in the United States for Russia not to be granted loans or aid until it restricts its arms exports to China.

Border Guards Fire on Japanese Fishing Boat

LD1508121894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1205 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Konoplitskiy]

[Text] Vladivostok August 15 TASS—A Russian cost guard ship was forced on Monday to open fire on a Japanese fishing vessel which was engaged in poaching in Russian territorial waters near the south Kurils.

Border guards spotted two Japanese schooners without identification marks at about 12:00, Moscow time. Despite a demand to stop, the poachers tried to escape in the direction of Japan. Warning shots were of no avail.

The guards were forced to open fire to hit. One of the schooners was damaged and detained. According to preliminary data, some Japanese fishermen were wounded.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Staff Member Abducted, Tortured 9 Aug

LD1208210794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A group of unknown persons abducted a member of the Russian presidential staff, Valentina Lenkova, on 9 August. In a dacha just outside Moscow the criminals tortured her, demanding a statement that the Russian presidential staff are the main instigators of the campaign to overthrow Dudayev.

Lenkova miraculously survived, and is currently being kept in hospital for treatment. Valentina Lenkova's husband today asked the Federal Counterintelligence Service to protect his family because of repeated threats from the criminals.

Chechnya Denies Involvement in Kidnapping

LD1308145494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 13 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Perkina]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Aug—Sultan Geliskhanov, head of the Chechen security department, today officially denied the report that "any Chechens were involved" in kidnapping a woman employee at the administration of the Russian president.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told by a spokesman of the republic's Press and Information Ministry that Geliskhanov said that the whole story has been invented. According to him, it is aimed at discrediting the Chechen Republic, its people and leaders.

Ilyukhin Doubts Chechnya's Threats of Terrorist Acts

LD1508120994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1142 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—There is little chance that Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev could, or would really want to, make good his threats to carry out terrorist acts in Moscow, according to Viktor Ilyukhin, the chairman of the Russian State Duma Security Committee.

"Dudayev's threats to carry out a series of terrorist acts in Moscow could hardly be implemented", Ilyukhin told ITAR-TASS on Monday. If they do work, "that would, first of all, be harmful for Dudayev himself", he said.

"Let's not forget another thing: The Republic of Chechnya is a part of the Russian Federation. Those who prefer terrorist acts on its territory are responsible for their crimes before the laws of the Russian state", Ilyukhin pointed out.

In addition, the Security Committee chairman pointed that, throughout the world, terror by and of itself has not brought success to its organisers. "An example is Northern Ireland".

He noted that carrying out such operations would be extremely complicated. "If they are nevertheless undertaken, that will repulse other Russian regions, including North Caucasian ones, away from Dudayev".

Nearly 90% Reject Intervention in Chechnya

MK1308092494 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 2

[Aleksey Kirpichnikov report based on INTERFAX materials in the "Loyalty" column: "89 Percent of Russians Are Against Russia's Intervention in Chechnya. Advocates of a Forceful Option Live in Moscow and Prefer the APR and the LDPR"]

[Text] The All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center has polled 1,594 Russians about their position on events in Chechnya. Forty-nine percent of the respondents suppose that the federal authorities should not interfere in the republic's conflict; 24 percent say that they are obliged to seek its termination; that is to say, conciliation between Dzhokhar Dudayev and the opposition; and 9 percent consider it expedient to render assistance to forces committed to returning Chechnya to the Federation. The remaining 18 percent have no clearcut position. Therefore, an overwhelming majority of Russians—89 percent—who have formed their opinion about the events in the mutinous republic, oppose unilateral support of forces in opposition to Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The majority of neutrality supporters have a secondary education, high incomes, live in large cities, and in the latest elections voted for the Democratic Party of Russia, Women of Russian, PRES, or Yabloko. The "peacemakers" are usually over 55, with an education below secondary, living in small towns, and politically neutral.

Advocates of intervention with the aim to return Chechnya to Russia are between 40 and 55, with a higher education, high incomes, holding positions of authority, living in the Moscow region, and supporting the Agrarian Party and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia—the Party of Zhirinovskiy.

Therefore, the social status of the aggressively-minded respondents, as well as the well known fact of power structure employees' voting for Zhirinovskiy, give no reason for complacency about the poll results.

Yeltsin's Schedule for Aug-Sep Reported

LD1508051994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0431 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

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[Text] Moscow August 15 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin continues his working tour of the Volga and Don regions. On Monday he is scheduled to visit the city of Togliatti and the Volga car-manufacturing complex.

On Sunday, President Boris Yeltsin met President Mintimer Shaymiyev of Tatarstan not far from capital Kazan to sum up the first results of implementation of the February 1994 agreement on the division and delegation of powers between the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation and those of the Republic of Tatarstan.

Boris Yeltsin stressed that in signing the agreement Moscow had proceeded from the belief that it would help strengthen the Russian Federation. He said a specific line of interaction must be worked out with regard to every republic and every region of the federation. Each major part of Russia must have its own strategy of development aimed at the maximum use of every region's internal potential.

Mintimer Shaymiyev informed the Russian president about the progress of reforms and positive changes in the Republic of Tatarstan. According to Shaymiyev, the model of sovereignty opted for by the Republic of Tatarstan meets the interests of both the Federation and the Republic, including various ethnic groups inside it.

The two presidents agreed that mutually beneficial ties are being developed between Tatarstan and other component parts of Russia in a number of fields and at different levels. Potential for this has considerably expanded, and what is needed now is more activity and more initiative on the part of the Republic.

Boris Yeltsin and Mintimer Shaymiyev expressed the confidence that their meeting would help further strengthen mutual understanding and give a new impulse to cooperation between the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan.

It is expected that the presidential motorship Rossiya will head for Rostov-on-Don after leaving Togliatti.

President Boris Yeltsin's trip began on August 11, and the head of state made unscheduled stopovers on Friday in the Ivanovo and Kostroma regions for meetings with the leaders of the regions. On August 13, the president arrived in Nizhniy Novgorod where he visited the Nizhniy Novgorod fair and met local entrepreneurs.

As earlier reported by the president's press service, his working tour would continue until August 17.

Before leaving Moscow, the president told journalists about his working schedule for late August and September.

At the end of this month he will travel to Germany to attend a number of events relating to "the withdrawal of the last Russian soldier" from that country.

On September 3-4, Boris Yeltsin is due to meet the Chinese chairman in Moscow. On September 24, the Russian leader will leave for Great Britain, and thereafter will fly to New York where he is due to address the United Nations General Assembly and pay an official visit to the United States.

Yeltsin is due to return to Moscow on September 29, before paying an official visit to Ukraine where he is expected to sign a bilateral treaty in early October. According to the president, the treaty has already been prepared by experts and discussed with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

In the middle of September, the president will vacation briefly.

Rutskoy Reinstated in Army; To Sue Yeltsin

LD1208194294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] And now more details about Aleksandr Rutskoy's reinstatement to the Army.

The Russian Supreme Court military collegium today heard a suit brought by former Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy against the Ministry of Defense concerning what Rutskoy believes was his illegal discharge from the Army in October last year.

Our correspondent reports that the following verdict was handed down: Air Force Major-General Aleksandr Rutskoy is at present on active military service. He should be paid his wages and other allowances for the period between October last year and August this year. The Ministry of Defense is censured for significant breaches of legislation in the discharge of Aleksandr Rutskoy.

However, the Supreme Court military collegium refused to rule on the actual way in which the former vice president was dismissed. Since the decree of the Minister of Defense was issued in compliance with a presidential decree, this matter falls within the remit of the Constitutional Court.

Aleksandr Rutskoy confirmed this evening that in the near future he will file a lawsuit against the president in connection with his unlawful dismissal from the vice presidency and discharge from the Armed Forces. Let him explain how I besmirched the honor of an officer, if I was upholding the Constitution and the law, end of quote. [sentence as received]

Aleksandr Rutskoy is also planning to insist that investigations into the October events continue. The amnesty applies only to those who were held in custody, but nobody has freed the other people involved in those tragic events.

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Participants Comment on Outcome of Varennikov Case

MM1208112294 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Aleksandr Golovenko: "General Varennikov Found Innocent, but the State Committee for the State of Emergency Case Is Not Over Yet"]

[Text] By the time readers open this issue of PRAVDA they will already have heard the news—news gratifying for every honest person—that the Supreme Court's Military Collegium has found Hero of the Soviet Union Army General Valentin Ivanovich Varennikov not guilty of "treason in the form of a plot to seize power." This charge, drawn up on instruction from on high by Messrs. Stepankov and Lisov, has crumbled into dust. Court Chairman Major General of Justice Viktor Yaskin and People's Assessors Rear Admiral Nikolay Yurasov and Major General Viktor Podustov had to toil hard to clear away the heap of muck, lies, slander, and libel with which "our prosecutors" tried to besmirch the honest name of this soldier who has served the fatherland for 50 years. [passage omitted]

After the session I conducted a few short interviews with participants in the trial.

V. Varennikov: "Let me say what is the chief thing here—the Russian Supreme Court Military Collegium firmly upholds the law and, given today's legal anarchy, that is very important. Chairman Yaskin and the people's asssessors have accomplished a courageous and noble deed. It was an honest step. And this inspires faith in our people and in the triumph of the law."

Lawyer D. Shteynberg: "As you will appreciate, the judgment cannot be challenged under the appeals procedure, this can be done only by the exercise of oversight powers if, say, the prosecutor's office perceives gross violations of the law. But, judging by the recent statement by acting General Prosecutor Ilyushenko, he does intend to appeal against any verdict of not guilty, and I am sure that he will keep that promise within the next few days."

Prosecutor A. Danilov: "I fully concur with the court's ruling and am very pleased by it. As for the host of reasons why I asked the Military Collegium to acquit Varennikov, I would respond as follows: After examining all the case material pertaining to the charge against Valentin Ivanovich I came to the conclusion that he was not guilty of treason in the form of a plot to seize power. I may add that I received no instructions whatsoever from any of the leaders of the Russian Prosecutor's Office. As a man, a citizen, and a state official I have been very affected by the disintegration of our homeland—the USSR."

And, finally, Judge V.Ya. Yaskin: "I will say with total frankness that we discharged our duty and made a ruling in accordance with the law and our consciences as judges. We received no directions whatsoever from the leaders of the Supreme Court or anyone else."

Varennikov on 'Collapse' of USSR

LD1208195294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The disintegration of the USSR will forever remain a relevant issue, Valentin Varennikov, former commander of the USSR's land forces and supporter of the August 1991 coup attempt, told a news conference in Moscow Friday.

The Russian Supreme Court's Military Collegium had acquitted him Thursday of charges of high treason in the shape of conspiracy to seize power in August 1991.

Varennikov called it his duty to refuse the State Duma-declared amnesty and to stand trial. He said that the trial is likely to be the first step towards determining the cause of the collapse of the USSR and the man responsible for this event.

Varennikov believes that whatever the public's opinion on the court ruling, his acquittal was important legally rather than politically.

He said that if the Prosecutor General's Office appealed and the Supreme Court Presidium rejected the acquittal, he would face a new trial.

Answering questions, he did not agree that the August 1991 coup attempt accelerated the process of the USSR's republics declaring their independence.

He said that the man guilty of the USSR's collapse was its former president Mikhail Gorbachev "who paralyzed the power structure of the country to an extent that they could not counter the forces of destruction."

Denies Deposing of Gorbachev Planned

LD1208153994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Solodova]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 12 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—"The SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] came to power years before August 1991, the only difference being that it was not organized as such," Army General Valentin Varennikov told a news conference today at the Russian-American press center. [passage omitted]

Valentin Varennikov said the main reason for the failure of the insurrection on 19-21 August 1991 was the plotters' naivety. He said they "did not expect to be arrested."

At the news conference Army General Varennikov again expressed the view that the SCSE never aimed to depose Mikhail Gorbachev as USSR president. "Gorbachev was, to some extent, indispensable since the West was

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banking on him and, for this reason, made investments in the Soviet economy," Varennikov said.

Gorbachev: Verdict Bad for 'Democracy'

LD1208201294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The decision of the Military Collegium of the Russian Supreme Court to acquit General Valentin Varennikov is "bad for us, for Russia and democracy," USSR ex-president Mikhail Gorbachev said.

Commenting on the court's verdict on the Russian Podrobnosti TV program today, Gorbachev said, "Future initiators of future coups can be sure to either receive amnesty or to be acquitted."

Gorbachev denied accusations that the 1991 Emergency Committee had acted with his approval. He said he had heard similar accusations back then.

On the suggestion of the Podrobnosti TV correspondent that now Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin could be held responsible for the collapse of the USSR, Gorbachev said, "It is hard to make accusations against the people who fought in order to prevent this process (the collapse of the USSR - IF) and were preparing for signing a new Union Treaty."

Democratic Leaders To Unveil 'Union of Russians'

MK1308111894 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov under the "Alliance Men" rubric: "One More 'Union of Russians' Formed. Union's Organizers Need Millions of Participants"]

[Text] Yesterday, the leaders of the parties and movements, usually taken to belong with the democratic part of the political spectrum, announced the creation of a "Union of Russians" which is supposed to unite anyone "who thinks he belongs with the Russian people, is devoted to Russian culture and traditions, and has the sacred and noble goal of reunification of the nation" regardless of his "nationality and ethnic origin." At this stage, those intending to join the "Union" are the Social Liberal, and the Bourgeois Democratic parties, the Union of Cossack Officers, the Union of Reserves Officers, the "Youth for Progress" movement, as well as the "August-91" Union of White House Defenders. According to those behind the idea, millions of people of Russia should join the "Union of Russians", otherwise it will not be possible to achieve success in the cause of reviving "great Russia, in restoring the traditions of the lofty spirituality of society and Russia's economic might."

As is noted in the declaration of the "Union of Russians," Russia will only become revived through "the revival and unification of the Russian nation, the spiritual revival of the peoples populating Russia, restoration of the traditions of raising youth, the creation of a confederation of independent states close to Russia spiritually, culturally, and economically." As for solving socioeconomic problems, the declaration suggests there should be "all possible and well-considered support and protection for the Russian producer and entrepreneur."

Speaking about relations with the other political forces, representatives of the "Union of Russians" stated their readiness to enter talks with all who would want them, avoiding however chauvinist and extremist organizations. It is not ruled out that the "Union of Russians" will take part in the next elections. Until then, representatives of the organizations that form the backbone of the new party will be implementing their political potential within the framework of the Public Chamber under the Russian Federation president.

MMM Demonstrators Arrested; 18 on Hunger Strike

LD1308112894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Video report by A. Dondulukov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] MMM, or rather its cheated investors, are having more problems. Yesterday evening angry shareholders organized a procession along the sidewalks of Tverskaya Street. They were met by OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] who were zealously driving them into the subway using swearwords, batons, and forged boots. Seven demonstrators were arrested, the remainder were just beaten up.

Journalists were told all this today by representatives of the shareholders' union of the MMM joint-stock company. They describe what has happened to the company as a "people's tragedy." The shareholders demand that they should be given an opportunity to use the money they invested to the end. For this purpose Sergey Mavrodiy should be released immediately and the documents, tickets, and money confiscated from the joint-stock company should be returned. They also call on the government not to interfere in the affairs of a private company but at the same time they ask it to grant tax privileges to the company for six months. The demands will, most likely, not be satisfied. Also, to all appearances, those who are putting them forward are perfectly aware of this. They are just trying to gain political capital on MMM.

I would like to add that as many as 18 people are currently on hunger strike on Varshavskiy Highway (MMM headquarters). Two of yesterday's demonstrators have been admitted to hospital.

Court Retains Mavrodi Custody Order

LD1508112594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] A court has kept intact the preventive measure applied to the MMM Invest Company's President Sergey

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Mavrodi, who has been in custody on Petrovka Street 38 since August 4, the Moscow Interior Department's Press-Center reported to Interfax Monday. The request from Mavrodi's lawyers to release him on a written pledge not to leave Moscow has therefore been repealed.

Mavrodi is to face a bill of indictment by Tuesday. After that, authorities will decide whether to keep him in custody or to release him, a spokesman said.

An MMM official says, investigators explain their unwillingness to release him by the fact that he "could flee." Meanwhile, MMM representatives have reported that Mavrodi has quit his hunger strike he started on August 4, the day he was taken into custody.

MMM representatives say Mavrodi is charged for tax evasion of 24 billion [figure only as received] in connection with his other company Invest-Consulting as well as being accused of resisting the tax police when he was taken in.

Zhirinovsky Calls For Early Presidential Elections

LD1508113094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1033 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Milov]

[Text] Ulyanovsk August 15 TASS—Changes for the better in Russia can begin only after pre-term elections of the president and members of the Federal Assembly, according to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia.

Zhirinovskiy told a mass meeting in Ulyanovsk that "It is advisable to hold the elections not later than in the spring of 1995, or, still better, this coming autumn".

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy last week left Moscow for a cruise down the great Russian river aboard the motorboat Aleksandr Pushkin designed to bring him in contact with voters in a number of regions along the river.

Some other members of the State Duma, including psychic Anatoliy Kashpirovskiy, took part in the mass meeting, during which a lively recruitment of new party members was carried out.

Presidential Analyst Opposes Rescheduling Elections

LD1508102894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0845 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—"With political realities being what they are, it is necessary to hold new elections to the Federal Assembly of Russia as stipulated by the Constitution—at the end of 1995 or the beginning of 1996," said Mark Urnov, deputy chief of the Russian president's analytical centre.

Urnov said the analytical centre had received no special instruction either from Boris Yeltsin or his Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov to work on the proposal to extend the term of the present members of the Russian parliament which came from Federation Council chairman Vladimir Shumeyko, although he admitted that the problem had been discussed by experts in an informal manner.

According to Mark Urnov, "neither the presidential nor parliamentary elections should be rescheduled for the sake of establishing firmly democratic procedures in Russia". "We must instill in the minds of the voters the category of 'sacredness' of elections as the only acceptable means of changing power," he stressed.

Economic Issues

Ilkyukhin Letter on Deposits in Foreign Banks

MM1508112194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 1

[Letter from V.I Ilyukhin, Chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma Security Committee, to Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin; date not given: "In A Bid To Dispel Rumors"]

[Text] Mr. President!

I am compelled to address you through this open letter as I am not sure that a regular communication will reach you.

You are aware that information has been disseminated in recent times in mass media sources and in speeches by officials from Western countries about the access of American, British, and other secret services to data relating to numerous deposits belonging to Russian citizens in foreign banks. In connection with these statements and the materials published, particular concern is prompted by rumors fueled prior to this of the presence in foreign banks of multi-million deposits belonging to V. Shumeyko, A. Chubays, V. Mostovoy, P. Grachev, A. Sobchak, Yu. Luzhkov, and other eminent officials.

If the Western secret services do, indeed, have information at their disposal regarding deposits belonging to the aforementioned persons, then, without doubt, it could be used as a powerful means of blackmail and pressure upon Russian politicians to the detriment of the security and interests of the country.

It is for this reason that I am asking you, for the purposes of verifying the information being disseminated, to set up an independent commission comprising deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly. Given a positive decision, I am prepared to take part in its work. I consider it useful also to include A. Korzhakov in the commission's composition.

I count upon your understanding.

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[Signed] V.I. Ilyukhin, Chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma Security Committee.

Central Bank Ordered To Fund Conversion Projects

MM1508103394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Edict No. 1679 of the Russian Federation President "On Granting Credits to the Russian Federation Government in 1994 for Conversion and Investment Programs," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated 10 August 1994]

[Text] In accordance with Article 1 of the Federal Law "On the 1994 Federal Budget" I decree that:

The Central Bank of the Russian Federation shall grant the Government of the Russian Federation credit for the funding on a repayable basis of programs for the conversion of the defense industry and investment programs for the term and on the conditions stipulated by the stated article:

—respectively 200 billion rubles [R] and R400 billion in the third quarter of 1994;

—respectively R900 billion and R2,000 billion in the fourth quarter of 1994.

With a view to reducing the state internal debt a fee shall be established for the use of the federal budget funds granted during the fourth quarter of 1994 on a repayable basis under new agreements of one-fourth of the Russian Federation Central Bank's current discount rate.

Income derived from the provision of the stated funds on a repayable basis shall be used to pay off the Russian Federation state internal debt.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin.
[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 10 August 1994.

Yeltsin Eases Tax Burden for Producers

LD1208132994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Russian enterprises will have their tax burden somewhat eased thanks to a presidential decree which taxes profit and calculates value-added tax on sale price when this is less than cost price, the presidential press-service reported Thursday.

The decree applies to old products or goods whose market price proves lower than their cost price. However, the seller is obliged to make appropriate data available to the taxation authorities before sale.

So far taxes have been charged on cost price.

When commodities or services are exchanged between enterprises or when they are donated, profit and value-added taxes are calculated on the previous month's prices of similar goods or services, which must not be lower than their cost price.

Yeltsin Promises To Keep Inflation Down

LD1508144294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1258 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Russia is preparing major steps to keep inflation down and normalize its consumer market, shifting the focus of economic reforms on industry, President Boris Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin, after visiting the AvtoVAZ automobile factory in the Volga town of Togliatti, expressed satisfaction with what he saw at one of the country's largest car factories.

"Many in Russia ought to learn from (Avto)VAZ's experience, in the technical, economic and social senses," he told reporters. He said AvtoVAZ has given up "the dependant's" attitudes, having become one of those large enterprises which "are trying to adapt to market conditions and are looking for their own way into the market."

"I will give comprehensive support to your work in making new models of cars," the president told AvtoVAZ workers, promising them assistance in obtaining foreign capital investments and in taking advantage of the conversion of military enterprises to civilian production.

Yeltsin urged the factory's management and designers to make more extensive use of so-called "dual technologies" and expressed support for the enterprise's proposal to form financial and industrial groups.

Yeltsin vowed to cut enterprises' taxes by 10 to 12 percent.

Jul Price Increase Lowest Since 1992

LD1508103694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0605 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Sales of consumer goods in Russia rose 5 percent in July compared with June, including a 7 percent sales increase at markets, according to the Russian Federation State Statistics Committee.

Consumer prices went up 5 percent last month, as in June. This is the lowest rise since the beginning of 1992.

The average wage meanwhile rose by 8 percent to 224,000 rubles. The statistics committee noted the consumer market in Russia is gradually being better supplied. In July demand was met by 88 percent, which is 24 percent better than in July last year. Experts say people increasingly prefer to buy at markets, especially food.

FITUR Hits Administration's 'Complacency' Over Jobs

MM1208112894 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 12 Aug 94 p 1

[FITUR Information Center report under the rubric: "FITUR's Stance": "What the President's Staff Is Keeping Quiet About"]

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[Text] A meeting of leaders of the all-Russian trade unions with Sergey Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation President's Staff, and government members will take place today. Discussions will concern the implementation of the Civil Accord Treaty, the General Tariff Agreement and regional agreements, and the elaboration of a mechanism of social partnership.

Not long before this, a report came in from the President's Staff to the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] about the decisions and actions undertaken to implement the treaty. The trade unions see the authorities' initiative as a desire to juxtapose the positions of the participants in the treaty in order to achieve a mutually acceptable balance of interests.

According to the trade unions, complacency in assessing the situation on the labor market is intolerable. The Staff has underestimated figures about the number of unemployed. It is keeping quiet about 4.5 million people who have been sent on leave without pay or have been transferred to an incomplete working day (week). And how many graduates of educational establishments are looking for work! We have ahead of us the reduction of the Armed Forces. It is an alarming fact that even in the circle of enterprises covered by the statistics, over 1 million vacant posts were eliminated in April-May. Even today around 10 Russian regions can entirely justifiably be called social disaster zones in terms of level of unemployment.

A letter from FITUR stresses in particular: The government is blocking proposals made by the trade union side in the Russian trilateral commission for settling vitally important questions for hired workers. A graphic example is the Law "On Raising the Minimum Remuneration of Labor," signed by the president 30 June. This act establishes a sum which enables a Muscovite to obtain just one ticket on city transportation and 10 loaves of bread. At June prices, the size of the minimum remuneration covers only 23 percent of the cost of goods and services constituting the living wage. In December of last year, it did, after all, cover 30.3 percent. The new tariff rates introduced as of 1 July are not capable of even ensuring a living wage for workers in the first seven categories.

"Assuming that the dialogue that has just begun on a broad range of problems which affect the interests of hired workers and are reflected in the Civil Accord Treaty will not be restricted to an exchange of information, but will continue to be developed, we confirm our readiness to participate in it," the letter from FITUR Chairman Mikhail Shmakov says in conclusion.

MICEX To Expand Currency Exchange Market

LD1508105394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1022 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 15 BUSINESS-TASS—The press service of the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEX) has announced that trading in the French franc will begin in September in addition to now-regular trading sessions in the dollar and the German mark.

The decision on this was reached at a meeting of the MICEX board after preparatory work revealed that despite the relatively small number of operations with the French currency as against the total number of banking transactions in Russia, MICEX member-banks have shown certain interest in such operations.

The experience of introducing the German mark in exchange turnover showed that trading in a new currency can serve as a catalyst of growth for inter-bank operations.

With all this in mind, MICEX will continue efforts to expand the range of quoted currencies in order to give Russian banks and their clients additional opportunities for speeding up inter-bank and trade transactions.

The MICEX board also made a number of decisions on trade in soft currencies. MICEX will soon hold trading in the Belorusian rouble thrice a week (up from twice a week), which will increase the level of liquidity of this market and even out abrupt changes of that currency's exchange rate.

MICEX has also adopted a decision designed to increase the attractiveness of the currency exchange market by improving the pattern of mutual payments. Apart from purely technical measures, MICEX intends to strengthen discipline of remitting money by banks after trading sessions, as well as to use short-term credit lines to upgrade the reliability of payments.

These measures will enable MICEX to switch from rouble payments on the third banking day (t"3) to that on the second banking day (t"2) which is an international standard for currency-spot exchange trading.

This will bring conditions of currency operations at MICEX closer to those of an inter-bank market although it is too early to speak about taking MICEX operations to a t"0 level because the exchange and the pure interbank sector of currency trading have different niches in Russia.

Government Commission Examines Payments Crisis

LD1208183094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 12 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] The state has numerous economic tools to influence factories failing to pay their debts, First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets told the government's commission on the payment crisis.

Soskovets, who chairs the commission, said that the cumulative debt is as high as 87.8 trillion rubles in the country and increasing.

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Soskovets added that the crisis must be overcome without additional cash infusions into the economy. In his view, this was above all a problem for the managers of businesses which cannot adapt to a new environment, not the government alone.

The commission adopted a plan of activity. It will consider restricting the consumption funds of the debtor businesses. Anatoliy Chubays, Chairman of the State Property Committee, said that if a business owes a lot but the wages of its personnel grow faster than inflation, then it clearly exists at someone else's expense.

Proposals were made that a mechanism should be imposed under which debtor businesses which have large hard currency accounts must sell their hard currency to pay their debts. The commission will consider draft legislation on bailiffs and on writs of execution.

The commission also plans to work on improving book keeping and on the impact the resolution of the payment crisis will have on bankruptcy procedures.

A team under Nikolay Petrakov, a well-known economist, will work out and analyze proposals on overcoming the payment crisis.

The commission changed its name to the Government Commission on Improvement of the Payment and Settlement System.

Legislation Drafted To Avoid MMM-Type Problems

LD1208162994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1354 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—In reaction to the scandal around the crash of the huge "MMM" investment fund, the Russian government is hurrying to adopt legislation to avoid similar problems in the future.

"The MMM shareholders' march past the Russian Government motivated the Cabinet of Ministers to hasten the adoption of regulations for joint-stock companies", Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin announced today at a meeting with leaders of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions.

According to Shokhin, a government resolution will be published soon to ban joint-stock companies from repurchasing their own shares, which is at the root of the financial speculation carried out by MMM. In addition, it will be obligatory to maintain a register of shareholders in order to make it easier for tax collectors to oversee a given company's financial operations.

Seven Trillion Rubles Owed in Taxes

MM1508135794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 94 First Edition p 2

[Own Information report: "Half a Million Defaulters"]

[Text] The Russian General Prosecutor's Office Collegium has discussed the results of monitoring compliance with tax legislation and the legality of measures adopted by Russian Federation State Tax Service and Russian Federation Tax Police Department organs.

Some half a million enterprises and organizations appear among those in breach of legislation. Last year and early this year tax organs have calculated unpaid taxes, including financial penalties, at over 7 trillion rubles.

The Prosecutor's Office has exposed deviations from the requirements of legislation and interference in the area of competence of tax organs by republic organs and the heads of regional administrations. In particular, the rates of profits tax paid into the federal budget have been unjustifiably reduced, the top priority accorded to tax payments has been revoked, and the collection of fines suspended. In a number of cases instances of inactivity on the part of tax organs themselves have been recorded.

Space Issues

Parameters of Cosmos Satellites Detailed

LD1208193294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1842 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Three artificial earth satellites, Cosmos-2287, Cosmos-2288 and Cosmos-2289, were launched by Russia on August 11 from the Baykonur space launching grounds by the Proton rocket-booster. The satellites will work within the Glonass global space navigation system.

The satellites were put into the orbit with the following parameters:

- The period of rotation—11 hours 16 minutes;
- the distance from the earth surface—19,138 kilometers;
- the inclination of the orbit—64.7 degrees.

The on-board equipment is functioning normally.

Recent Activities of Mir Cosmonauts Detailed

LD1508112594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1033 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Flight Control Center (Moscow region) August 15 TASS—Cosmonauts Yuriy Malenchenko, Talgat Musabayev and Valeriy Polyakov continue their space odyssey aboard the Mir research station.

They conducted astrophysical experiments over the past few days with the use of x-ray equipment, contunue to study interaction between flows of charged particles of space origin and the Earth's radiation belts. Experiments on space materials science were also carried out.

Under the environment study programme, the crew made several snapshots of the Earth's surface. Lake Baykal and adjacent territories were chosen as an area

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for investigations. Obtained information was transmitted to Earth in a tv communication session.

The cosmonauts will undergo medical checkups on Monday. Plans also provide for an experiment to define parametres of noise influence on operating equipment at compartments of the space station.

Work at the research complex proceeds under a set programme. The cosmonauts' health is good, and they feel well.

Regional Affairs

Filatov Says Dudayev Acts 'Provoking' Russia

LD1208201394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Sergey Filatov, Russian president's chief of staff, told Interfax Friday that the activities of Dzhokhar Dudayev and his followers are aimed at provoking Russia into using force against Chechnya.

He said that Russia does not envisage or plan any use of force and that this would be absurd today.

Filatov said that the opposition Interim Council of Chechnya led by Umar Avturkhanov described the latest statements of the Groznyy leaders as a lot of hot air.

Filatov said that these statements received blown-out-of-proportion coverage in the Russian media .

He complained that for some reason nobody has written about the Interim Council or the government it formed or the job it is doing.

Filatov said he could not comprehend the ruling of the Supreme Court's Military Collegium which had acquitted General Valentin Varennikov, tried for his part in the August 1991 coup.

Filatov believed that the court should have mentioned the coup leaders in its decision because not to do so was to act as if there never was any coup attempt or emergency committee, something that he called "not right."

He expected the Prosecutor General's Office to respond to the ruling in its capacity as the overseeing authority.

Comments on Russian 'Influence'

LD1208170794 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 12 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Kremlin, speaking through the lips of Boris Yeltsin, has spoken against armed intervention in Chechnya. Sergey Filatov, head of the presidential administration, elaborated on the Russian position at the request of NTV.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Yesterday, Boris Nikolayevich at last commented on the Chechnya situation when he left for Dubna. He said in particular that it could not be said that we have no influence on the current situation in Chechnya, while at the same time we deny any possibility of forcible intervention. What do you think this influence or not-quite-influence by Russia on the internal political situation there consists of?

[Filatov] Support for the Provisional Council and introduction of normal standards of living for the population are the most important things at the moment. That's the most important thing. So it cannot be said that there is no influence; of course there is some influence, and there will continue to be support for a normal regime which allows people to live and work in peace.

[Correspondent] We all understand that a kind of power struggle is going on in Chechnya at the moment. What are the chances of the Provisional Council led by Avturkhanov in this struggle?

[Filatov] I think the Provisional Council has not yet stained itself with any compromising actions or with blood, and morally speaking it is clean. So I think this allows people who can see and understand their actions to support them. [end recording]

Russia Criticizes Chechen Policy on Flights

LD1308121194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] The Russian Ministries of Defense, the Interior, and Nationalities and Regional Policy have made a statement concerning the recent decisions of the Chechen leaders. The document says:

The statements and actions of the Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev in the last few days cannot but cause concern. In particular, the military council of Chechnya has banned all flights of air transport to the Chechen Republic without previous permission. A cable sent from Chechnya to the Russian Department for Air Communications says that if flights to the Sleptsovskaya airport continue, fighter planes of the Chechen Armed Forces would force them to land in Groznyy. The safety of the passengers and the planes cannot be guaranteed.

This statement, as well as many others of a similar kind, merely whips up tension in Chechnya, the document goes on to say. They must be well aware in Groznyy that the Sleptsovskaya airport is situated not in Chechnya but on the territory of Ingushetia. The threat about bringing Chechen fighter planes into action is also puzzling since the Russian Government has already banned all types of aircraft from traveling over the territory of Chechnya. The Russian authorities have sufficient resources to ensure that their decision—which also applies to the Chechen fighters—is fully implemented.

Attempts by the Chechen leaders to aggravate the conflict and direct it onto a path of severe confrontation and pressure tactics deserves condemnation. It is not by these

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methods that ways toward a complete normalization of the situation in the North Caucasus should be sought. Only peaceful, constitutional measures can make it possible to untie the tight Caucasian knot, says the statement of the Ministries of Defense, the Interior and Nationalities and Regional Policy of the Russian Federation.

Chechen Official Says Facts Distorted

LD1308183694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 13 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 13 August—The joint statement made today by the Russian Defense, Interior, and Nationalities Ministries about Dudayev's threat to bring down planes flying in the opposition's Nadterechnyy Rayon has brought an immediate reaction from Groznyy.

The deputy head of Chechnya's department for air transport said this evening that this document "is a gross distortion of the Chechen president's decree, which says that planes that do not belong to the Chechen Republic's official military structures will be shot down and armored equipment will be destroyed in the area of the emergency situation in Nadterechnyy Rayon," not in Chechnya as a whole, but in one rayon, he stressed.

Also, the statement by the three ministries says unambiguously that the Russian authorities have banned "all flights over Chechen territory." This includes planes from Groznyy.

The joint statement says: "The Russian leadership has the forces and the means to ensure that its decision, which also applies to Chechen fighter planes, is fully implemented."

Chechnya Repeats Warning Over Flights

LD1408094894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0933 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 14 TASS—Chechnya repeated today its warning to Russia, saying that it is going to stop by military means air flights over the Nadterechnyy District. Movladi Udugov, head of the press and information department of Chechnya, told ITAR-TASS in a telephone interview today that the warning was directed only at "Russian military helicopters, which entered from time to time the Nadterechnyy District (the main base of the opposition Provisional Council), which is declared to be a state of emergency zone."

He added that "Chechen servicemen have never had any intention to bring down civilian planes flying not only to Ingushetia, but also to Groznyy."

It is worth recalling that, in response to the Thursday warning of the Dudayev regime, the Russian Interior and Defence Ministries, as well as the Ministry for the Affairs of Nationalities, expressed perplexity, because "the Russian Government has already banned flights of any planes over the Chechen territory." "The Russian leadership has enough strength and means at its disposal for ensuring the unconditional compliance with its decision, which also spreads to Chechen fighter planes," their joint statement said.

According to the information, obtained by ITAR-TASS from an official on duty at the administration of the Chechen president in a telephone interview, "the situation is calm in the republic, and the leaders are having a rest."

Air Space Over Chechnya 'Still Open'

LD1408203494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2021 GMT 14 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—The air space over Chechnya is still open, and flights are carried out from the Chechen capital Groznyy to neighbouring states, including to CIS and other countries. "We cannot put these flights under our control," Russian border troop commander Andrey Nikolayev said in an interview with the TV news programme Itogi on Sunday night. He described "the open air gate" to Chechnya as "one of the major problem we face now in the northern Caucasus."

The commander pointed to the specific character of Russia's border in the Caucasus where two lines exist. The first line coincides with the former Soviet Union's border with Turkey and Iran. An agreement to this effect was reached with Georgia and Armenia. The second line goes along the main Caucasian Mountay ridge. This structure is designed to protect Russia's interests in a more reliable way.

Under a presidential decree, coordination of state border protection is to be effected by the federal border service, General Nikolayev said. "Such a service is undoubtedly needed," he stressed, since to merge border troops with the country's Armed Forces would have been "a grave mistake."

Groznyy Accused of Inciting 'Hysteria'

LD1308155094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1402 GMT 13 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Aug—Official Groznyy continues to whip up hysteria over the "invasion being prepared by Russian troops" into Chechnya, despite statements attributed to the Russian president that the Russian leadership rules out the use of force as a way of solving the problem in Chechnya.

Speaking on local television on Friday evening, Chechen Interior Minister Satuyev said that "any peacekeeping statement by the Russian leadership in fact signifies

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preparations for mass-scale provocation and aggression against the Chechen republic."

Chechen Provisional Council Procures Modern Arms

LD1308141894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1244 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] The Provisional Council of the Chechen Republic stationed in the Nadterechnyy region, continues mobilizing volunteers to man home guard units and procures the most modern arms, including heavy armored vehicles. They have already procured two helicopters, the press service of the Provisional Council told Interfax Saturday.

The detachments are being confined to barracks in the process of their manning.

According to the press service, the government of national revival formed by the Provisional Council solves pressing economic tasks, namely preparation for the winter, procurement of medicines, procurement of necessary means to prevent possible outbreak of cholera (as it is know, several cases of cholera have been registered in the neighboring Dagestan).

The government also undertakes appropriate measures to provide the home guard detachments with food products and cloths which are being procured in Chechnya and outside it.

The press service has positively assessed the fact stating that over the previous two days there has been no information on persecution of Chechens in Stavropolye. "The Provisional Council expressed its gratitude to the leadership of the territory which adopted all measures to prevent extremism and to bring order on its territory."

Opposition Denies Arms From Russia

LD1408170894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] The main staff of the Armed Forces of Chechnya notes that Russian military helicopters are flying over the territory of Nadterechnyy Rayon. Official Groznyy does not exclude that this is a provocation that may lead to armed clashes.

At the same time, according to some information, Russian helicopters are taking to Nadterechnyy Rayon weapons for opposition combat detachments that are being formed. At the same time, Andar Khatuyev, a spokesman for the press service of the Chechen opposition, indirectly denied that Russia was lending help in delivering arms.

[Begin Khatuyev recording] We have no need of mercenaries. Such types of people are not needed. The entire Council of Elders recommends a person. Passport details and call-up age are checked. There is a mountain of weapons there. There is no need to buy them. Every Chechen person has two or three different types of weapons. There were and are armored vehicles. [end recording]

Chechnya Accepts Support From Afghan Mojahedin

LD1308151894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] On Saturday Chechnya's Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef told Interfax that he and Islamic leaders Hassan Anturabi and Abdulmadjid Azandani had, in principle, agreed that up to 100,000 Afghan mojahedin would enter Chechnya if Russia sent troops to that republic.

But repercussions of the Russian and Afghan interference were hardly predictable because, Shamseddin Yusef said, "mojahedin were easier welcomed in than out." It would take Russia several decades to resolve what could develop into a nationwide problem, Yusef said.

Russian Commander Denies Concentration of Forces

LD1308083094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, deputy commander of Russia's Land Forces, has categorically denied claims by Dzhokhar Dudayev that forces, including a tank army, are being concentrated at Chechnya's borders. In an INTERFAX interview he emphasized that such claims should be seriously proven by definite facts. Otherwise, Vorobyev said, they are simply fabrications, and by no means harmless ones, which do no honor to a professional military man like Dzhokhar Dudayev.

'Small' Russian Unit Operating on Chechen Border

LD1408202594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Video report by A. Abramenko in Stavropol Kray; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Contrary to some reports, Russia is not concentrating its troops on the Chechen border. With the exception of one small operational subunit of the interior troops redeployed a few days ago to Kurskiy Rayon in Stavropol kray, there is no other military formation along the entire 100 km sector of the border with Chechnya.

Mikhail Tsipin, deputy commander of the subunit, has told us in an interview that so far they have not received any assignments on ensuring order on the border with Chechnya. Personnel are going through routine training in no way connected with heightened tensions in the

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neighboring republic. Order on the roads connecting Chechnya with Russia is maintained only by reinforced militia patrols.

The Cossacks left the area several days ago. Inhabitants of the border territories of Russia believe that their presence only added tensions to relations with the Chechen Republic. The Cossacks had embarked upon their task of restoring order so eagerly that criminal proceedings will probably now be instituted against some of them under criminal law for the offences they had committed.

Troops Near Chechnya Said on 'Red Alert'

LD1408171394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Reports on the situation around the Chechen Republic are related mostly to the events within the republic. A certain tension, however, can be felt in neighboring regions, too. Radio Liberty has already quoted (Vsevolod Chernov), procurator of the north Caucasian border district, as saying that an order arrived from Moscow to put the district on red alert. A similar order was given to internal troops districts. Chernov stressed that this action does not aim at subsequently bringing the troops into the Chechen Republic, but simply was caused by the difficult domestic situation in Chechnya and Dudayev's possible clashes with the opposition. In his view, Russian troops must be ready to stop the conflict from crossing the republican borders.

Groznyy To Take No Action Against Opposition

LD1408161894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1451 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] The official Groznyy does not intend to take any military actions against the opposition in the Nadterechny District, Interfax was told Sunday by a senior official of the Chechen president's administration. He said that differences increased between the head of the Provisional Council, Umar Avturkhanov and his entourage, on the one hand, and the former speaker of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, on the other.

Referring to the intelligence information the differences are caused by the problems with weapons and money. He said there is a tendency towards rapprochement between Khasbulatov and influential people from the entourage of the head of the Provisional Council. "It seems the opposition will have to fight each other," he said. "The main thing in this situation is to prevent the escalation of the armed conflict beyond the Nadterechny District," he concluded.

Chechnya Forms Volunteer Corps

LD1408103894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019 GMT 14 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Krasnov]

[Text] Moscow August 14 TASS—The situation in Chechnya and Groznyy is "calm and stable, a plan of mobilization measures continues to be implemented," Chechen Minister of Press and Information Movladi Udugov told ITAR-TASS by telephone today. Problems of mobilization were discussed at Saturday's session of the Chechen security council which was held behind closed doors.

According to Udugov, "the plan of mobilization measures is being effectively implemented: volunteer regiments are being formed in all the populated localities of Chechnya." The general staff of the Chechen armed forces reported that "power structures are being beefed up by the military and specialists. Representatives of heads of local administrations of six populated localities of the Nadterechnyy District came to Groznyy today to report that volunteer regiments are being formed there."

Mobilization of Chechnya Well Under Way

LD1308133694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1240 GMT 13 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Perkina]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Aug—The universal mobilization of the male population in Chechnya is proceeding well and in accordance with the plans drawn up on the basis of decisions by the congress of the Chechen nation and the decree of President Dzhokhar Dudayev. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this on the telephone today by Colonel Aslan Maskhadov, chief of the general staff of the republic's armed forces.

The security council of Chechnya will give a final approval to a mobilization plan for the entire republic at its sitting today, he said. Dzhokhar Dudayev will take part in the sitting. When the mobilization plan is endorsed by the security council, its implementation will begin on a large scale, added the chief of general staff.

According to Aslan Maskhadov, volunteers and irregulars are being recruited in towns and villages, and all men liable for call-up and people with military professions are being summoned to the military commissariats. So far no one has refused to come to the reception units or failed to turn up.

He confirmed that the troops of the republic's interior ministry were being brought up to strength. On 12 August alone up to 900 men from different parts of Chechnya expressed a wish to serve in the interior troops and were issued with equipment and supplies.

Dudayev Freeing Prisoners To Join Interior Troops

LD1308120194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1130 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Znamenskoye, Chechen Republic August 13 TASS—Fragile tranquility has been established in Chechnya, which may be upset by any step, not careful

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enough, both inside and outside the republic, a spokesman for the chechen Provisional Council told ITAR-TASS today, commenting on the situation in the republic.

The central square of the village of Znamenskoye is crowded with people today. The premises of the Provisional Council and the national revival government are located there. In response to threats coming from the "congress of Chechen people" which supported Dudayev, numerous volunteers signed up for self-defence detachments.

At the same time, the opposition leaders retain their self-control. The Provisional Council is concentrating these days on everyday needs and problems of the ruined economy. It is necessary to help people, who have not received pensions and wages for a year and a half. It is necessary to organise the harvesting campaign, the procurement of fodder, to prepare dwellings and hospitals for winter and schools—for a new academic year. Material assistance is being rendered to families in a low income bracket and victims of the bloody Dudayev regime.

According to the information reaching here, Dudayev ordered the release of a large group of prisoners from the local prisons, wishing to strengthen support for his regime. They were all sworn in on Friday and joined the Interior Ministry troops.

Dudayev Setting Up 'Home Guard' Units

LD1408183994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] According to reports from Groznyy, people's home guard regiments are being formed and deployed in all towns and villages throughout Chechnya. Men liable to call-up and specialists are being enlisted to bring the forces up to full strength. A decree issued by Dzhokhar Dudayev envisions the completion of the mobilization process by Tuesday [16 August]. It is difficult to say how the general proposes to call to arms as many as 600,000 in a republic with a population of one million.

Moreover, armed people torn away from their regular jobs have to be fed. Maybe local oil tycoons are going to share some of their profits, which up to now have been disappearing heaven knows where? For a third year running, even the militia have not been paid any wages and have to live off what they earn by trading in those arrested and detained.

Conflicting reports from Chechnya make it difficult to judge to what extent President Dudayev's orders are being carried out there. As for Ruslan Khasbulatov, who has been declared an enemy of the Chechen people and ordered to leave the republic, it looks as if he has no intention of leaving. [passage omitted]

Dudayev: Russia To Launch World War III

MM1208150094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Gritchin: "Dudayev Accuses Russia of Preparing for World War III"]

[Text] Groznyy—A fairly calm atmosphere persists in Groznyy. Establishments, stores, and transport are working as usual although President Dudayev signed an edict Thursday [11 August] on implementing full mobilization.

Troop units and formations have begun to be manned and deployed in the republic. The president estimates that 600,000 Chechens aged 16 to 65 are capable of taking up arms. The mobilization measures are not mandatory for the Russian-speaking population, which can take part in defending the republic, according to Dudayev, solely on a voluntary basis. Assessing the Chechen Army's potential, M. Merzhoyev, Dudayev's representative in the armed forces, agreed that it will be inferior in open warfare to the Russian combined units, which are capable of occupying Chechen territory. But my interlocutor is convinced that there will be no peace for the aggressors here, the "Russian military elite will get three Afghanistans in Chechnya."

Under another of Dudayev's edicts a state of emergency is imposed on the territory of Nadterechnyy Rayon from 12 August. Given the effective dyarchy in the region the implementation of this document will in all probability be more complex than the implementation of mobilization. Because Dudayev has openly said that he does not want blood and civil war despite the "Russian special services' desire to unleash such a war in Chechnya by provoking killings."

The Chechen president set out his position during a briefing for journalists. Answering a question from your IZVESTIYA correspondent on official Groznyy's reaction to the Russian president's statement in connection with the situation in and around Chechnya, Dudayev stressed that this statement shed light on many things. Whereas previously the Chechen leadership thought that "Boris Nikolayevich was ignorant of the real atmosphere of state terrorism toward Chechnya," it is now clear that "he is personally involved in, organizing, and directing this unprecedented provocation with unprecedented falsity."

Dudayev is convinced that through its actions in Chechnya Russia is preparing a platform to begin World War III. According to the president's information, various countries are ready to offer the Chechen Republic varying assistance in repulsing Russian aggression, including sending a million-strong army of would-be martyrs. Nevertheless the right delegated to the president of declaring a jihad—a Muslim holy war against Russia—still remains unused. In Dudayev's opinion, it is extremely hard to bring oneself to take that step.

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Chechnya's president announced that he "has no intention of dirtying his hands" with R. Khasbulatov and other enemies of the people who were acknowledged to be such at the Chechen people's congress. Any Chechen can carry out the sentence, he said, but I would not want these people to die an easy death. It is important for me that they should go on living with this stigma and remain in torment.

The president voiced an extremely optimistic opinion of the economic and social situation in Chechnya: An economic program is being developed, production is increasing, a deficit-free budget has been adopted, and people's living conditions are improving despite the tough blockade imposed by Russia. In connection with such favorable changes Dudayev asked journalists to "forget about Kuwait and talk about Ichkeria."

Dudayev Followers Said Transferring to Opposition

LD1408170994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1601 GMT 14 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Aug—"A mass transfer to the side of the opposition by armed subunits of Dhokhar Dudayev was noted today in the area of the settlement of Kumbeleyevskiy, by the Sunzha River," the spokesman of the press service of the Interim Council of Chechnya, Ruslan Martagov, told ITAR-TASS by phone today from Groznyy.

According to the statement by the Interim Council conveyed by Martagov, it is a question of the transfer of one batallion of the Shali Tank Regiment, which is commanded by a relative of Umar Avturkhanov, two squadrons of mountain cavalry and also 60 men from a subunit of "suicide fighters" to the side of the opposition. According to Martagov, one of the missions of these units is to "carry out terrorist acts in Moscow banks."

The reason for the transfer was explained by the press service of the Chechen opposition as "the higher pay in armed units of the Interim Council." It is pointed out that "at the armed forces headquarters in Groznyy they are urgently seeking monetary funds in order to preserve the army."

Three Mines Explode in Groznyy 14 Aug

LD1508114294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] According to latest reports, three mine explosions shook Groznyy last night not far from the Prosecutor's Office near the armed forces HQ. Deputy Chief of the State Security Department Khamid Dzhamaldayev, told Interfax that there were no casualties while windows shattered in neighboring buildings.

According to the State Security Department, the explosions were from magnet mines. Dzhamaldayev claimed the mines used were from the village of Znamenskoye, Nadterechny District, where the opposition HQ is located.

Explosions 'Terrorist Campaign'

LD1508144394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—A series of terrorist acts were carried out in Groznyy, the capital of the break-away Republic of Chechnya, at 4 o'clock Monday morning. ITAR-TASS was told by the republic's Interior Minister, Ayub Satuyev, that powerful magnetic mines were exploded outside the Prosecutor-General's Office, the Civil Defence Headquarters, and the Chechen Drama Theatre. Nobody was hurt in the blasts, but the buildings suffered an unspecified amount of damage.

The minister's opinion is that the explosions are the beginning of a large-scale terrorist campaign by the Chechen opposition.

The provisional council, based in the opposition-held Nadterechny district, reported that there were five explosions near the Groznyy airport late Saturday night. The building was damaged, but no comments were made about possible victims.

According to the headquarters of the Chechen Armed Forces, loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev, the general mobilisation ordered by the president several days ago is still going on. People's volunteer corps are being formed in practically every town and village. Military specialists and recruits are being accepted into the army exclusively at the recommendation of elders and administration heads, the source said.

Overall, judging from reports from Groznyy, the situation in the republic is under control.

Chechnya Events Said Disrupting Entire Caucasus

LD1508095994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0650 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—The public execution of five criminals which was to be held on Sunday was shifted to August 15, Monday. According to a report by the Chechen prosecutor-general's office, this was explained by the fact that "the place of execution was not prepared".

It will be remembered that mobsters who committed several grave crimes, that is murders, rapes and kidnapping, were sentenced to a firing squad. According to information received by ITAR-TASS by telephone from Chechen Press and Information Minister Movladi Udugov, the investigation of their case lasted several months.

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Referring to Chechen Prosecutor-General Usman Imayev, he said on Sunday that the republic's Supreme Court "rejected the appeal of the convicted and approved the judgement of the lower court which sentenced them to "firing squad".

According to Udugov, the decision on the public execution was adopted by the prosecutor-general's office "for preventive purposes, on the demand of Chechen religious authorities and in compliance with the rules of Sharia [Shari'ah]. The population of the Chechen capital was informed of the execution".

Spokesman of the Chechen provisional council press service Ruslan Martagov said to ITAR-TASS by telephone on Sunday that "the mass siding of Dzhokhar Dudayev's armed units with the opposition was recorded in the area of Kumbeleyevskiy village near the Sunjar river".

A statement by the Provisional Council transmitted by him says that "one battalion of the Shalinskiy Tank Regiment commanded by a relative of Umar Avturkhanov, two mounted squadrons of hilanders as well as 60 people from the squad of "kamikazes" defected to the side of the opposition.

Martagov claimed that one of the tasks of this squad is "to commit terrorist acts at Moscow banks".

The press service of the Chechen opposition explained the reason for the defection "by higher cash allowances in armed units of the Provisional Council". The statement notes that "the chief staff of armed forces in Groznyy is urgently looking for funds to preserve the army".

"Explosive events in Chechnya have a negative effect on the situation in the Caucasian region as a whole and on a settlement of the Ossetian-Ingushi conflict in particular. They can become a catalyst for aggravating the situation in the south of Russia".

This opinion was expressed by Secretary-General of the North Caucasian Assembly of Democratic Forces Shmidt Dzoblayev in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday. According to Dzoblayev, the present polyarchy in Chechnya may lead to a split of the republic into separate clan territorial entities, which will completely disunite the Chechen people.

Dzoblayev believes that it is impossible to settle the Chechen crisis by force: "this is a deadend. All Caucasian peoples can be drawn into an armed conflict. We can not permit such developments."

Checkpoints were established on the border between the Stavropol territory and Chechnya. They are manned by militia and cossacks. The Stavropol territory and Chechnya have a common border several hundred kilometres long.

The territorial administration takes measures to prevent provocations caused by the general mobilisation declared by Dudayev.

Checkpoints Set Up on Border With Chechnya

LD1408160094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1525 GMT 14 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Stavropol 14 Aug (TASS)—Check-points have been set up on the border between the Stavropol territory in southern Russia and the self-declared Caucasus republic of Chechnya. Police and Cossack units are on round-the-clock duty at these check-points.

The newspaper STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA quoted on Sunday Aleksandr Korobeinikov, deputy head of the Stavropol territorial adminsitration, as describing this move as a forced one. It was taken to protect local residents as long as the situation in the neighbouring Chechen republic remains volatile.

The Stavropol territory has hundreds kilometres of common border with the troubled Chechnya. The local authorities are doing their utmost to prevent possible provocations which may be prompted by the general mobilization declared by Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Earlier this week Dudayev imposed a state of emergency on Chechnya's Nadterechny region, a stronghold of the republic's opposition, and ordered the mobilization of all men between 15 and 55 in a bid to resist any invasion from Moscow.

Senior officials of the stavropol territory met with the leaders of the Nadterechny and another Chechen region to discuss possibilities of solving some problems following the installation of the check-points.

The Stavropol officials said the use of arms in Chechnya was currently out of control, which prompted the establishment of a border cordon to bar Chechen terrorist groupings from the Stavropol territory. The need for such a move is especially acute after a series of bus hijackings in south Russia which have been linked to this mountaineous region.

Impossibility of Closing Chechnya Borders Cited

MM1508075994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 94 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Leonid Smirnyagin, leader of regional policy sector of the Analysis Center under the Russian president, by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina; place and date not given: "A Struggle Among Clans Is Not in the People's Interests"]

[Text] [Smirnyagin] While on geographic expeditions I have repeatedly met Chechen families in Russian villages in Tambov, Ryazan, Rostov, and other oblasts, where they get on fine with local residents. But the wave of confrontation between Chechnya and Russia is inevitably ousting Chechens from their habitations.

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[Zamyatina] It seems to me that concern for Chechens living outside the territory of their own republic is a very weak argument for the opposing sides in Groznyy.

[Smirnyagin] That is true. But I also wish to emphasize that the struggle among clans aspiring to power in Chechnya is very greatly at odds with the true interests of the Chechen people, who are no longer capable of living in isolation from Russia for both economic and other reasons.

[Zamyatina] But if the confrontation among armed groupings in Chechnya leads to bloodshed, the conflict will have to be localized in order to ensure that weapons and gunmen do not spread throughout the south of Russia.

[Smirnyagin] If the situation exacerbates, Russia will prove incapable of controlling the border with the rebel republic. Many sections of the border with Chechnya are nothing but steppe. It is extremely difficult to guard such a border.

I wish particularly to emphasize hereby that we, as a rule, discuss the Chechen problem either from the viewpoint of the interests of the opposing elites or from the viewpoint of a confrontation between the center and a component of the Federation. At the same time we forget about the life of the people, which completely dissolves borders. It will be very difficult to restore them in conditions whereby they are ignored by the population.

[Zamyatina] Which means of settling the situation do you consider acceptable?

[Smirnyagin] I believe that the general line of the federal power in Moscow is being vindicated. That is, the complete exclusion of strong-arm interference. Even the least intimation of strong-arm pressure brings about an instant rallying of all the forces in the Caucasus opposed to the center.

Moreover, I can see that Dzhokhar Dudayev really thirsts for any steps on Moscow's part to ensure that supporters rally around him under the slogan of defending Chechnya's sovereignty.

Unfortunately, his position is vindicated, for Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime has no other levers for strengthening its power.

[Zamyatina] Does it not seem to you that the delay over the bilateral talks on the delimitation of powers has also had an adverse effect on the development of the situation in Chechnya?

[Smirnyagin] It seems to me that the talks process could only defer the crisis, not resolve it. Now only time can "heal" this almost dead-end situation, because the stand taken by Dudayev, from his viewpoint, must be extremely pointed in respect of Moscow. In fact, his authority largely rests precisely on sharp opposition to the center. In such circumstances it is hard to count on any accord which would satisfy both sides.

Dudayev Seeks Russia's Suspension From UNSC

LD1508144094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1258 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Chechnya will insist on suspending Russia's membership in the UN Security Council [UNSC], President Dzhokhar Dudayev said in Groznyy on Monday at an extended session of the republic's Security Council.

He said that Chechnya intends to submit this demand to the United Nations, the Unrepresented Peoples Organization and the Vatican.

Dudayev accused Moscow of scaring the world community with a third world war, in an open and cynical manner. Russia intends to encourage the following way of thinking: better the peace of slaves than the harsh reality of nuclear war, he said. This is why, believes General Dudayev, it is necessary to suspend Russia's membership in the UN Security Council.

Dudayev Seen Tempted To Use Force Against Opposition

MK1308085194 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Viktoriya Shpak under the "Situation in Chechnya" rubric: "Moscow Lays Blame on Dudayev"]

[Text] In yesterday's statement on the situation in Chechnya, Moscow finally dared officially formulate its stance on the Chechen problem. In the government statement signed by Nikolay Yegorov, minister for the affairs of nationalities and regional policy, all responsibility "for the consequences related to the actions and statements of Dudayev" was put on the Chechen president personally.

Such a statement could well be taken as Moscow's declaration of war on Dzhokhar Dudayev in person: the government "reserves the right to take necessary measures appropriate in the situation in order to prevent threats to the life and security of Russian citizens from spreading from Chechen territory." At the same time the statement emphasizes, however, that the government "does not intend and will not allow the problems of the Chechen Republic to be resolved by forcible methods." A second promise by Russian representatives not to use force in Chechnya (earlier this was promised by Boris Yeltsin) is evidently designed to deprive Dudayev of his main propaganda trump card—the threat of a Russian military intervention.

Dudayev himself has ventured yet another open attack against Moscow. The statement by the Chechen Military Council contains a direct threat that it will intercept and force to land in Groznyy Russian planes flying over Chechen territory starting at 2300, 11 August. It is plainly clear that should this be done "a threat to the life and security of Russian citizens" will be evident, and it will be anyone's guess what "appropriate measures" Moscow might then take.

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Meanwhile, in Chechnya, both Dzhokhar Dudayev and the Provisional Council are actively handing out weapons to their loyalists. At the same time, both sides claim that their opponents are incapable of rallying combat-ready units. However, for all their militant actions and statements, they will find it hard to actually start hostilities. In the view of representatives of the Government of National Confidence under Yaragi Mamodayev, Dudayev himself will not dare use force. Nor will the people follow the Provisional Council, which, in his words, has alienated the people by compromising itself by its ties with Moscow.

So, Dudayev could find himself in a situation similar to Boris Yeltsin's. Unless he decides to crush the opposition militarily, a mini-Chechnya may emerge in his republic in the form of Nadtrerechnyy Rayon, which, while not taking orders from the central authorities, has not been recognized by anyone.

Yeltsin Urged To Show Firmness, Restraint

MM1208172494 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Anatoliy Sergeyev under the "From the President's Mail" rubric: "Tired of Machine Gun Bursts"]

[Text] The events in the Chechen Republic brought about by determined resistance to the dictatorial regime of General Dudayev have drawn into their orbit the destinies of many ordinary people—moreover, people far removed from politics. This is borne out by letters addressed to the president and coming from that region just now.

Letters from Chechnya describing instances of human rights violations and armed clashes with civilians as their victims have been received in Moscow before, addressed to the president and the government. The Chechen Republic's official authorities seemed not to notice all that was happening. Recently, however, the voice of despair has been heard increasingly strongly from there:

"We are tired of daily explosions and machine gun bursts. Russians here are defenseless, they can be robbed, beaten up, and even killed at any moment, and no one will bear any responsibility for it."

This is a letter from the city of Groznyy, but for understandable reasons we cannot name the writer. No commentary is needed, as the saying goes.

To judge from the mail, the Dudayev regime is doing a good deal to create an atmosphere of intolerance around Russians. Approximately 200,000 citizens—both Russians and Chechens—have already been forced to leave the republic. Refugees from Chechnya write that the atmosphere of intolerance that has been created there forced them to abandon homes, apartments, and property and seek refuge in other regions.

Elderly people are having a particularly hard time. They report in letters that they have been unable to receive their pension for 10-12 months (a year!).

Addressing the president, people advise him to be firm, but not to let Russia get bogged down in a new Caucasus war. A statement by the Executive Committee of the Congress of the Kabard People is probably characteristic in this respect: "The millions-strong Russian population will be drawn into the kindled conflagration. Please show restraint. The problem of Chechnya must be resolved by political methods."

Chechen Opposition: Yeltsin Could Resolve Conflict

LD1508101794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has enough authority and influence to have a beneficial effect on the political stand-off in the breakaway republic of Chechnya, thinks one of the opposition leaders.

"Boris Yeltsin has a unique chance today to resolve the Chechnya issue not by force of arms, but by wisdom of word and deed", ITAR-TASS was told on Monday by Yaragiy Mamodayev, the head of the "Government of Popular Trust", one of the centres of opposition to Chechnya President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

According to Mamodayev, the crisis has reached the blowing point, when the conflicting sides will listen to only an equally-respected and neutral voice. The Russian president could provide such a mediating voice now, by publicly calling for a meeting between the Chechen leaders. The heads of the districts bordering on Chechnya could serve as Yeltsin's aides, since they are more aware than many Moscow politicians of the danger which a violent turn of events represents.

Mamodayev is convinced that his idea is capable of being quite fruitful. After all, he said, conciliation has always been even stronger than the customs of war in the Caucasus. None of the conflicting sides in Chechnya would dare to reject reconciliation terms proposed by such an authoritative figure as the Russian president, he thinks.

The opposition figure suggested that Yeltsin could undertake an initiative to resolve the Chechen conflict in such an untraditional way during his upcoming visit to Rostov-on-the-Don.

Execution of Criminals in Chechnya Postponed

LD1408163794 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] The public execution by firing squad of the five criminals condemned to death in Chechnya has been

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postponed from today until Monday. That is due to the fact that Procurator General Usman Imayev claims that the execution site is not ready. It is planned to carry out the execution in a suburb of Groznyy. The death penalty is being carried out in accordance with the norms of the sharia. Movladi Udugov, head of the Information and Press Department of Chechnya, explained the need for the public execution in an interview to our radio station.

[Begin Udugov recording] Ordinary people think that such a measure, to a certain extent, will have an educational significance for people and in principle they support such a decision. [end recording]

Moscow Charges Execution Illegal

LD1508142794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—The prosecutor-general's office in the Republic of Chechnya has not yet adopted a final decision on the public execution of five criminals in the capital of Groznyy. ITAR-TASS has learned from reliable sources in the Chechen Government that, on Monday morning, the prosecutor-general's office was still the scene of discussions between government members, law enforcement officials, and the Council of Elders about the proper way to implement the court's death sentence.

It has been reported that the prosecutor-general announced a public execution of the criminals, convicted on several counts of murder, rape, and kidnapping, among other things, after considering the advice of the republic's Moslem spiritual leaders and elders. The purpose of the public execution, according to Chechen officials, is to act as "a deterrent" to other criminals. The decision was taken "at the demand of the religious authorities of Chechnya and in accordance with the laws of the Sharia [Shari'ah]".

According to sources in Groznyy, the Chechen leaders are debating the execution because there has been no precedent for publicly implementing the death sentence. It is supposed that the execution is to take place in one of the capital's suburbs, but the specific site has not yet been named or prepared for the proceedings. The execution is scheduled for today.

ITAR-TASS has information indicating that the condemned men are: 60-year old Salah Batalov, 40-year old Aribakharchi Aribakharchiyev, 36-year old Baharsolt Ilrisov, 42-year old Usam Serbiyev, and 28-year old Musa Hazhimuradov. All the criminals were sentenced to death in 1991 or later.

Moscow's opinion of the proceedings throws a different light on the matter. According to current Russian legislation, only a court can hand down the death sentence. Any decisions made by other authorities concerning the fate of criminals are illegal. Since the Republic of Chechnya is a part of the Russian Federation, Russian laws are supreme on its territory. Therefore, ITAR-TASS was told by reliable sources in Moscow, Chechnya's prosecutor-general does not have the right to decide to publicly execute criminals.

The Russian prosecutor-general's office does not maintain any contacts with the Chechen prosecutor-general, who was appointed personally by Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and fulfills only his instructions.

Village Elders Urge Khasbulatov To Leave Chechnya

LD1308155494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1312 GMT 13 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Perkina]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Aug—The Council of Elders in the settlement of Staryye Atagi in Shalinskiy Rayon today called on Ruslan Khasbulatov to end his "provocations" and leave Chechnya immediately. A representative of the republic's Press and Information Ministry reported that the elders had prevented an attempt by the former speaker of the Russian Parliament to hold an unauthorized rally near the settlement.

Abdulla Artakhanov, the head of Urus-Martanovskiy Rayon also said that local inhabitants there had today asked Khasbulatov to leave the rayon, where he had also tried to gather citizens for a rally. They had asked him not to whip up internal tension.

Khasbulatov is at his brother's home on the outskirts of Groznyy, the representative of the ministry said. The elders have spoken to him and it appears that he will soon leave the republic. "Nobody intends to" use force against him, it is not the way of Chechens to be heavy-handed with an unarmed man. We want only one thing from Khasbulatov—that he leaves Chechnya and that he does not stir up trouble here.

Village Prevents Khasbulatov's Entry

LD1308150594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Armed citizens of the village of Starye Atagi which is situated near Groznyy did not let in former speaker of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov who wanted to organize here a meeting Saturday. Our Interfax correspondent reports that a bridge on the way to this populated center was blocked with an excavator and concrete plates. Several home guards armed with automatic fire arms received a tank and large-calibre machine guns for reinforcement.

Our correspondent reports that the people were very excited and categorically refused to let in ex-speaker of the Russian parliament and his supporters to the territory of the village.

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In order to prevent undesirable events a detachment of governmental armed forces came to the place of this incident. "We have come to prevent clashes. People are greatly irritated and everything can happen," commander of the detachments told our Interfax correspondent.

At the same time leader of the village home guards expressed his opinion saying that "Khasbulatov has no right to appear on the territory of the village and to wage any political agitation in Chechnya."

"The nationwide congress deprived him of citizenship and let him go to those who needs him. There is no necessity in him here," declared an armed citizens of the village Starye Atagi.

"We do not need Ruslan Khasbulatov's speeches," a 66-year old Akhmad Makhmudov, member of the village Council of Elders, declared in his interview with Interfax. "We did not ask him to come and he himself has no right to appoint meetings where he likes," he continued. "We want to live in peace and ask to leave us in peace."

Khasbulatov Refuses To Leave Republic

LD1208152094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1326 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Former speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov does not intend to leave Chechnya despite this week's ultimatum by the People's Congress in Groznyy.

He is still at his native village of Tolstoy-Yurt outside Groznyy holding intensive talks with religious and clan leaders, Chechen opposition sources told INTERFAX.

Reports from Tolstoy-Yurt say that Khasbulatov, who recently arrived from Moscow to mediate between President Dzhokhar Dudayev and opposition members, has reached agreement to set up a conciliatory commission whose aim is to prevent bloodshed and Russian military intervention in Chechnya.

He has repeatedly criticized the opposition Provisional Council led by Umar Avturkhanov for shunning collective decision making.

On Wednesday, the People's Congress called by Dudayev had stripped Khasbulatov of Chechen citizenship and demanded his deportation from the republic. He was also declared a people's enemy.

In the meantime, Khasbulatov himself speaking at Tolstoy-Yurt said he will not leave Chechnya until President Dudayev quits the political arena, opposition sources said.

Khasbulatov Meets With Chechen Opposition Leader

LD1308111894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1057 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Znamenskoye, Chechen republic August 13 TASS—Umar Avtorkhanov, head of the Provisional Council of Chechnya, had a meeting on Friday with Ruslan Khasbulatov, ex-speaker of the Russian parliament.

ITAR-TASS was not informed of what subjects they discussed; it was only told that the conversation "took place in an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect."

Khasbulatov Said Target of Recently Released Criminal

LD1508155394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1334 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—Opposition leaders in the Republic of Chechnya have accused official authorities in Groznyy of freeing a convicted murder for the purpose of taking Ruslan Khasbulatov out of the Chechen game.

The prosecutor-general of Chechnya, Usman Imayev, ordered the release of Hasukha Magomadov, a dangerous criminal, from the Naurskaya maximum-security penitentiary on Monday, ITAR-TASS was told by telephone by Ruslan Martagov, spokesman for the opposition Provisional Council.

According to Martagov, Magomadov is famous for the lone killings of KGB agents during Soviet rule. He was given a lengthy jail sentence in 1976.

According to the spokesman, Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev "intends to use Hasukha Magomadov in the fight against the Provisional Council". He claimed that the hardened criminal had been assigned the task of "neutralising" Khasbulatov, the former Russian parliamentary speaker who returned to his home republic after an amnesty opened the jail gates for him.

Commentary Views Distrust of Khasbulatov

LD1508102794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—Ruslan Khasbulatov's past behavior in Russia makes people in his native republic of Chechnya wary and unsure how he will act in the republic's unfolding political conflict. Khasbulatov was the Russian parliamentary speaker who led the rump of the dissolved parliament in the September-October 1993 conflict with President Boris Yeltsin which resulted in the storming of the Khasbulatov-and-Rutskoy-held White House.

"Ruslan Khasbulatov's negative role on the government level in Moscow gives rise to a feeling of wariness concerning his activities in Chechnya", according to Viktor Ustinov, the chairman of the State Duma geopolitical committee. "Khasbulatov's contradictory political past hangs over him, and it is not especially clear how he

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will act in the conflict between (Chechen President Dzhokhar) Dudayev and the opposition", Ustinov told ITAR-TASS in an interview Monday morning.

Ustinov, who is a member of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic parliamentary faction, ruled out the use of force as a means of resolving the dangerous situation in the Chechen Republic. "The Chechnya president and his opponents should immediately settle down at the negotiating table, and if the opposition has any constructive ideas which have the support of the people, they should be adopted and implemented", he stated.

The geopolitics committee chairman issued a warning against the "forceful overthrowing of Dzhokhar Dudayev", noting that, in his opinion, it would "only lead to further disturbances and lawlessness in Chechnya".

Ustinov also emphasized that the Russian federal authorities cannot observe the Chechen crisis with indifference, since the republic is still claimed as part of the Russian Federation. "Over the last two years our politicians have, apparently, lost their feeling of responsibility for that part of the Russian Federation called the Republic of Chechnya, and we are now reaping the rewards of that inactivity", he said.

With that in mind, Ustinov recalled the "noble" role Russia played in the 19th century, when it came to the Caucasus to, in Ustinov's opinion, "bring peace to the warring peoples".

Official on 'Volatile' Events in Chechnya

LD1408142094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1358 GMT 14 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz August 14 TASS—"The volatile latest developments in Chechnya are negatively affecting the situation in the Caucasian region on the whole and the settlement of the Ingush-Ossetian conflict in particular. They may detonate aggravation of the situation in southern Russia", secretary general of the assembly of North Caucasian democratic forces Shmidt Dzoblayev told TASS on Sunday.

He believes the current "multiple authority" in Chechnya may split the republic into several territories inhabited by representatives of certain clans, which is to lead to complete estrangement among Chechen people. Dzoblayev is convinced that the crisis cannot be resolved by use of force. "This is a gridlock, since all Caucasian peoples can be drawn into an armed conflict. This must be averted. Russian federal authorities should decide where they stand in their relations with Chechnya", he emphasised.

The regional democratic leader said he was closely following the situation in the Chechen Republic, which he is going to visit in the near future.

Yeltsin Addresses Yaroslavl Region Officials

LD1208190994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1543 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, currently on a working trip to the Volga region, met heads of the Yaroslavl region today, the presidential press service reports.

Yaroslavl administration head A. Lisitsin informed the president of social and economic situation in the region. In his words, the reforms have had positive results. The region has agreed with French firms on cooperation in housing construction. Situation in the industry and agriculture is satisfactory.

The meeting focused on pensions, tax policy, privatization, social security of students and staffers of budget-financed enterprises, as well as training of personnel.

The head of the regional interior department delivered a report on fulfilment of the presidential decree against crime. In his words, the crime rate has dropped but much is still to be done.

The local heads called for a constructive dialogue with federal bodies, especially the fiscal ones.

Yeltsin Makes Unplanned Stop at Volga Town

LD1208204294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The boat Rossiya (Russia), taking Russian President Boris Yeltsin on a working trip along the Volga, on Friday moored to Plyos, a small town in central Russia's Ivanovo Region, the presidential press service said.

Yeltsin's itinerary did not include a stopover there, but he had saved some time on the way, "nor could the historic significance of one of Russia's oldest towns and the majestic local scenery have failed to attract the president's attention," the press service report says.

Yeltsin was met on the bank by local inhabitants, who "paying no attention to ranks, gave Yeltsin their thoughts," the report continues. "Many concerns were voiced there—low pensions and unemployment benefits, the need to increase subsidies for children, the high prices of food, the unsatisfactory implementation of the presidential decree on public education and much else that worries Russians today."

At the same time, local farms have performed quite well this year, the report quotes the Plyos people as saying. Only shortage of time prevented Yeltsin from taking numerous invitations to visit homes in the town, the report says.

Yeltsin Meets Administration Heads in Nizhnyy Novgorod

LD1308141794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1210 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] [Announcer] As we have already reported, Boris Yeltsin spent five hours in Nizhniy Novgorod today.

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This visit is part of the Russian president's tour program to cities on the Volga and Don rivers. [passage omitted]

Immediately after initial greetings the president approached a group of journalists.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Good morning, Boris Nikolayevich! Welcome, Boris Nikolayevich!

[Yeltsin] Good morning!

[Unidentified correspondent] Where have you been? What have you been doing? How has the trip started?

[Yeltsin] I have had meetings with all the heads of administration on the way. We discussed problems. I was inviting people on board the ship to discuss problems of a particular oblast. I also invited the leaders of Kostroma and Ivanovo on board the steam ship and we discussed the problems of these two oblasts. It seems that these oblasts are quite behind in implementing the reforms and in living standards. Therefore they should be helped. We have agreed that I will come to both Kostroma and Ivanovo Oblasts specially in November.

Nizhniy Novgorod is a special city, of course. First of all, seven days after the beginning of the reforms I visited the city. In practice, it was this city where the implementation of the reforms in Russia started at the time. In many respects it was an example to follow then and it is still showing an example of how the reforms should be implemented, energetically and unconventionally, applying methods and ways that have never been used in Russia before.

Also, one should remember that from time immemorial Nizhniy Novgorod has been a merchants' city and it should remain such a city now.

As for the things that upset me, it was the position of pensioners and workers in the budget sphere.

[Unidentified correspondents] Thank you, Boris Nikolayevich. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] At this hour the president has already left Nizhniy Novgorod. He left it in high spirits.

Praises Reforms in Nizhnyy Novgorod

LD1308074994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0700 GMT 13 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko and Evald Kessariyskiy]

[Text] Nizhnyy Novgorod, 13 Aug—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is visiting the towns of the Volga and the Don, has said his stay in Nizhnyy Novgorod is no coincidence. "This is a special town," he said. "I visited it a week after the reforms began, and we can see here today that they are going in the right direction, if in their own particular way. Perhaps almost all of the country's problems are focused in this region."

In the president's opinion, the Volga region primarily has a developed economy, which is currently experiencing great difficulties. Boris Yeltsin spoke about market structures developing fairly dynamically in the Nizhnyy Novgorod region and particularly stressed that good decisions were being made here and real ways out of the crises were being sought.

In Yeltsin's opinion, "We have already passed the danger point in the threat to a united Russia, but many problems still remain. And for all of us, the Volga represents Russia—its power, breadth, greatness, and quiet beauty."

The president also dwelt on the issue of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany. "I will be going there soon," Boris Yeltsin noted. "The schedule we signed for the withdrawal of our sub-units is being implemented daily, in full. Our country will withdraw its last soldier precisely as planned—on 31 August."

The Russian president left the town's river port for the Nizhnyy Novgorod fair.

Says Threat to Unity Passed

LD1308143294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1244 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin, on a working trip throughout the Povolzhye region, believes that the Kostroma, Ivanovo, and Yaroslavl regions "are lagging behind in the reforms pace and correspondingly in the development of the population's well-being."

He declared about this to journalists in Nizhnyy Novgorod Saturday. Yeltsin also reported that in November he intends to specially visit the Kostroma and Ivanovo regions which, as he said, are especially far behind other regions in their development.

Speaking about Povolzhye's problems, Yeltsin underlined: "If we are able to establish federative relations here then we shall ensure Russia's unity for decades and even centuries."

In Yeltsin's words, "the country has already passed through the most dangerous period of threat to Russia's unity." However, he believes that there are still many problems ahead.

Yeltsin is convinced that "the notorious constructions of the century have disfigured Povolzhye. Now it is necessary to save the situation by a systematic, purpose-oriented, and well thought-out work. We are especially concerned over the environmental problems," he said.

During his meeting with representatives of business circles of the Nizhnyy Novgorod region Yeltsin called "the problem of defense complex enterprises" the most difficult one. "This is peculiar for the whole country," he added. "The total industrial recession in the nation was 39 percent whereas in the military industrial complex it was 71 percent. Conversion is underway but sometimes

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it takes place spontaneously and gives birth to new sharp problems," Yeltsin stressed.

According to Yeltsin, the federal government tries to regulate this process "but the weakness of the income basis makes this process inefficient."

Yeltsin reconfirmed that certain credits would be granted for conversion programs in 1994.

He also pointed to the government's strive for lifting obsolete restrictions in the military industrial complex which, as he said, "restrain maneuverability of the enterprises."

Yeltsin reported that in the course of their last meeting with the government chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin they reached an agreement to grant the right to sell their goods to enterprises. However, their prices should be not lower than their cost price. This, in particular, concerns the Gorkiy automobile works "which is overstocked with manufactured goods," he said.

Speaking about further development of the Nizhnyy Novgorod region, Yeltsin noted successes in small privatization where enterprises' assets are being sold instead of enterprises themselves. "This means—he underlined—that the new owner does not inherit its debts and must not hire this very staff. He has an opportunity to actively start gaining profits."

Yeltsin positively assessed the fact that the region supports the poor people and refused from subsidies for food products.

Yeltsin also plans to stop in Kazan and Togliatti. Well informed sources told Interfax that Vladimir Zhirinovsky, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party faction, who was to come to Nizhnyy Novgorod aboard his motor ship in two hours after Yeltsin, failed to do this "due to technical reasons."

Visit to Nizhniy Novgorod Summarized

LD1308153494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 13 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko and Evald Kessariiskiy]

[Text] Nizhnyy Novgorod August 13 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin currently touring the Volga and Don regions of Russia visited Nizhnyy Novgorod on Saturday.

Yeltsin supported the Nizhnyy Novgorod reform programme, saying that reforms in the region are being carried out in a "non-standard manner and in the right direction." The region has become a testing ground for "good decisions" and "real means of settling crisis situations."

During the five-hour stay, the president visited the Nizhnyy novgorod trade fair and met with representatives of the city and regional administration and business circles.

Yeltsin said the local programme of privatisation which envisages selling not enterprises, but their assets allows new owners to launch new production faster by freeing them from the privatised enterprises's debts and leaving it to them to decide whether or not to change the personnel.

The president also praised the programme of targeted aid in the region which brings help to those who need it most.

Yeltsin assessed very highly the region's plan of land reform and the reorganisation of state and collective farms. He supported the principle of voluntary participation.

Over two years the entire financial system of the region has been reorganised, he continued. A new powerful infrastructure is emerging, progress has been made in attracting investments, including in small businesses. The problem of freight transportation has been practically solved, largely through motor auctions.

Yeltsin noted that the housing problem will not be solved until long-term private investments are engaged. He called for more vigorous measures to develop a market of housing certificates and bills of exchange, and establishing lending, saving and mortgaging associations.

Speaking about the situation in the military-industrial complex, the president recalled that industrial production dropped by 39 per cent in Russia in the first half of the year, however, in the military-industrial complex it decreased by 71 per cent. The government is trying to regulate conversion, but lack of funds hampers the process, he said. At the same time, the president pledged to provide credits for conversion and investment programmes by the end of the year.

Yeltsin said one of the government's tasks is to remove the brakes that restrict the maneuverability of enterprises. He pointed out that his decree on the reduction of mobilisation capacities is the first step in this direction. He also said that an agreement has been reached with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to allow enterprises to sell their products at a price lower than production cost, without fearing possible sanctions from tax agencies.

Despite the tight schedule, the president opened a regional tennis championship by exchanging a couple of shots with Nizhnyy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov to the applause of the delighted audience.

From Nizhnyy Novgorod, the president left aboard the ship Rossiya along the Volga river. On his way he will make a stopover to visit a local monastery, 100 kilometers from Nizhnyy Novgorod.

Yeltsin, Tatar President Discuss Bilateral Treaty

LD1408142994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1330 GMT 14 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Kazan August 14 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, currently on a tour of the Volga region, met on Sunday with his Tatar counterpart Mintimer Shaymiyev, the Russian president's press service said.

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During the meeting held not far from the local capital Kazan, the two leaders summed up the progress in implementing the February 1994 treaty on delimitation of competence and mutual delegation of powers between Russian and Tatar bodies of state government.

Yeltsin stressed that when signing the treaty, Moscow expected it to help consolidate the Russian Federation. Relations with each of Russia's component republics and regions require a specific approach. All major parts of Russia should have their own strategy of development designed to use the internal potentialities of each region to the highest possible benefit.

The Tatar president informed his Russian counterpart in detail about the progress of reforms and positive changes in his republic. The pattern of sovereignty proposed by Tatarstan is quite acceptable not only for the republic and various ethnic groups in it, but also for Russia.

It was noted during the summit that Tatarstan was currently resoring and developing mutually beneficial ties with other regions of Russia, in all spheres and at all levels.

Yeltsin and Shaymiyev expressed confidence that their meeting would promote understanding between Russia and Tatarstan and give a new impetus to cooperation between their bodies of state power.

Yeltsin Views Chechnya, Tatar Talks

LD1508140594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1234 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Tolyatti August 15 TASS—Boris Yeltsin, visiting the "Avtovaz" car maker in Tolyatti, on the Volga River, gave reporters some comments on events in Russia.

He repeated that, as far as the conflict in the Republic of Chechnya goes, "a resolution must be achieved in a peaceful way only, without force or war". He noted that "some measures are being undertaken, but it is too early to speak about them".

Concerning Russia in general, the president said the political situation was "fairly calm". During his five-day riverboat trip down the Volga River, Yeltsin is staying in constant touch with Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and other Russian leaders.

Yeltsin told reporters about the results of his meetings with Tatarstan's president, Mintimer Shaymiyev, and other leaders of the republic. They discussed the "results of the implementation of the recently-signed treaty and 10 agreements". "We confirmed that the agreements reached are being implemented, and that nationalist radicalism is on the decline", the president said.

Yeltsin noted that the Russia-Tatarstan treaty could possibly serve as a model for resolving the problem with the break-away Republic of Chechnya.

Shaymiyev Comments on Talks

LD1508143594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1258 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev believes that Russia will avoid resorting to force against Chechnya. He reached such a conclusion following Saturday talks with his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin near Kazan.

Yeltsin is on a working tour of the Volga Region by ship.

In an interview with Interfax Monday, Shaymiyev stated that the Russian leadership realizes the necessity of reaching a solution to the conflict in Chechnya through negotiations. Negotiations held between Russia and Tatarstan, in his view, could serve as an example.

At the same time, he emphasized that a lot depends on Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's position. He believed that the leaders of Caucasus republics must act as mediators in efforts to settle the conflict in Chechnya.

Shaymiyev declared sharing Yeltsin's views on ways of implementing the Power Sharing Treaty and stressed the need for its prompt implementation.

He reported that he discussed with Yeltsin federal projects for Tatarstan, including Russia's participation in the reconstruction of Kazan's Kremlin, financial aid to regional grain producers and munitions manufacturers, participation in a project at the Elabuga autoworks, and American credits to KamAZ. Shaymiyev noted that Yeltsin is going to discuss these issues with U.S. President Clinton at a meeting scheduled for September.

Zhirinovskiy Gets Mixed Welcome in Chuvash Republic

LD1408163394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1559 GMT 14 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentina Ivanova]

[Text] Cheboksary 14 Aug [TASS]—The motor-ship carrying ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who is now touring the Volga region as part of his election campaign, moored on Sunday morning in Cheboksary, capital of the Chuvash Republic.

Upon arriving in the city, the leader of Russia's misleadingly-called Liberal Democratic Party held a two-hour authorized rally on the Volga embankment. It drew huge crowds eager to see the notorious politician "in the flesh".

Addressing the gathering, Zhirinovskiy pledged a brilliant future for all those choosing to vote for him in the future presidential polls.

"After we win the forthcoming elections and finally come to power, when we get the absolute majority in parliament and our representative becomes president of the country, we shall form a one-party government of our party members and immediately get down to quite

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different reforms: There will not be any starving people, jobless or homeless, we shall never let anybody treat you badly", he promised.

Local residents were not unanimous in their attitude towards the notorious leader. They expressed their feelings in very different ways, ranging from applauses to rotten eggs thrown at Zhirinovskiy and the other Liberal Democratic lawmakers by a group of young people. Zhirinovskiy responded by promising to send a telegram to the chief of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, Valentin Stepashin, who will certainly dismiss his local subordinate for inability to ensure adequate security of lawmakers.

A lot of Chuvash voters are known to have cast their ballots for Zhirinovskiy in last December's elections. In this connection Zhirinovskiy was asked whether their attitutde might change following his plans to divide Russia into provinces instead of ethnic republics.

"I don't think so", the leader said. "I am confident I will be supported here as much as in other places. If there are no ethnic differences and borders, relations among people will be much better", he noted.

Zhirinovskiy Receives 'Cool Welcome' in Tatarstan

LD1508052794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0513 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan August 15 (TASS)—Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy was given a cool welcome during his stopover in Tatarstan's capital Kazan on Sunday. There was no welcoming party on the pier, and Zhirinovskiy and his retinue had to take a bus to get to the city centre.

Later on Sunday, several thousand people assembled for a meeting in the square in front of Kazan's central park. The speeches of the talkative LDPR officials were interrupted from time to time by calls "enough of gabbling".

Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy retorted: "These are young men yelling, I will send them to serve with the army, so they have something to do."

Shaymiyev Rejects Claim of Friendship

LD1508115494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev in an interview with Interfax Monday flatly refuted Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's allegations that the republican leader is the LDP leader's friend.

Zhirinovskiy, touring the Volga Region, made such a statement in Kazan Sunday.

Shaymiyev dismissed as a fable Zhirinovskiy's assertion that they often talked on the phone and had tea together in Moscow. In his words, he has not met with Zhirinovskiy even once, not to even talk about "chats or drinking tea together."

Shaymiyev believes that Zhirinovskiy's team has chosen the best possible way to win voters trust in Tatarstan "by speculations on his friendship with Shaymiyev."

"This is a well-planned move to take advantage of trust in Tatarstan's president," Shaymiyev stressed.

No. Ossetian Leader Against Redrawing Borders

LD1308204394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2003 GMT 13 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz August 13 TASS—North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov said his republic wants to establish good relations with all Caucasian republics and warned against redrawing borders in the Caucasus.

Speaking at a meeting with visiting Deputy Chief of Staff of the Russian border troops Major-General Mikhail Shkuruk in Vladikavkaz on Saturday, Galazov said that North Ossetia is seeking to build normal and friendly relations with all neighbours, but is against the use of force and coercive measures.

He warned against rushing the return of refugees to the Prigorod District of North Ossetia, adding that this complicated and intricate problem can be solved only by conciliatory commissions on the basis of the Kislovodsk agreements.

Speaking about relations with Ingushetia, Galazov said that "we are ready to continue the talks with the Ingush president on all problems which could lead us to peace."

He stressed that the redrawing of borders in the Caucasus must be removed from the agenda because territorial claims may lead to a new tragedy in the south of Russia. He expressed concern about the fact that the establishment of checkpoints on the trans-Caucasus highway may destroy the "transparent border" and hamper economic, scientific and cultural integration between North Ossetia and South Ossetia.

Shkuruk has arrived in North Ossetia to study the situation on the ground. During the stay he will meet with the leaders of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, head of the temporary administration, visit checkpoints on the trans-Caucasus motorway and Russian military units helping to police the area.

Meanwhile, the situation in the part of North Ossetia where the state of emergency has been extended until September 30, 1994 remains relatively calm. No overnight shoot-outs or attacks on police or army posts have been reported there in the past 24 hours. The situation is under control of the Russian Army units and local law enforcement bodies.

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International Affairs

Ukraine, Russia Draw Up Cooperation Treaty

LD1308101894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0952 GMT 13 Aug 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov—TASS]

[Text] Kiev August 13 TASS—"One text has replaced two texts of a comprehensive draft treaty on friendship, cooperation and partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation," head of the Ukrainian delegation Oleksandr Chalyy told journalists on Friday.

Summing up the results of two days of work of the Ukrainian and Russian delegations, he pointed out that the sides had actually reached agreement on 80 percent of the text of the future document. No major differences were left, Chalyy stressed.

Aside from provisions dealing with the political and economic issues, as well as human rights, the draft treaty includes many other aspects of mutually advantageous partner relations.

Ambassador at Large Yuriy Dubinin agreed with the opinion expressed by the head of the Ukrainian delegation. He pointed out that there had been no muscle-flexing at the talks. According to Dubinin, Russia is not going to impose its terms on Ukraine. Touching upon issues connected with foreign political activities of the two countries, he stressed that agreement had been reached on the coordination of actions.

The second round of talks is scheduled for mid-September. The task has been set to do their utmost for preparing the draft treaty for the forthcoming summit meeting in Kiev.

Provisions of Treaty Detailed

LD1308161894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1440 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev, 13 Aug—Certain details concerning the progress of the Ukrainian-Russian negotiations on coordinating a draft treaty On Friendship, Partnership and Cooperation between Ukraine and Russia are now available. The Russian side refused to fix the inviolability of Ukraine's borders in the text of the treaty. The treaty only stipulates that both sides recognize the Helsinki accords. A separate provision to recognize both states' territorial integrity is not envisaged. The Russian side believes that the mere mention of the recognition of the Helsinki accords is sufficient.

Concerning the issue on dual citizenship, the treaty envisages a provision stipulating that the citizens of Ukraine and Russia have the right to dual citizenship. However, this issue will be regulated in greater detail in a separate bilateral treaty.

During the negotiations the Russian side was trying to insist that a separate provision on military cooperation, in particular, on a joint repulsion of armed aggression be included in the treaty. However, since Ukraine's military doctrine envisages its non-aligned status, there will be no provision on military cooperation in the treaty.

Through the fault of the Russian side the notion of national or ethnic minorities was not defined in the draft treaty. In the opinion of observers this may lead to certain problems in the future. An additional round of talks before the final signing of the treaty is planned.

Ukraine Urged To Sign Nonproliferation Treaty

LD1208174494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 12 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] The door to comprehensive American-Ukrainian cooperation will be open only after Ukraine ratifies the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the US military and political negotiators led by the head of the department for relations with newly-independent states, ambassador James Collins said at a briefing in Kiev on August 11.

The list of questions discussed with the Ukrainian leadership included ways of expanding Ukrainian-American cooperation mapped out during the recent visit of US Vice President Albert Gore to Ukraine—defence cooperation, economic assistance, including that to be granted under the Nunn-Lugar programme, and security guarantees.

Cooperation between the two countries has become more active, the news conference was told. The visiting negotiators recalled that the US economic aid to Ukraine "is granted on time".

The United States agreed to give Ukraine $350 million under the Nunn-Lugar programme, including $75 million in 1995. Of this sum $185 million will be spent on dismantling strategic nuclear missiles; $40 million on defence conversion, and $49 million on housing construction and social security for retired Ukrainian servicemen.

The negotiators discussed 30 projects of Ukrainian-American defence cooperation, such as NATO-Ukrainian joint maneuvers in Poland and the Netherlands, a visit by a Ukrainian airborne platoon to the United States, and the exchange of delegations of military cadets.

Asked by Interfax-Ukraine what the United States expected of Leonid Kuchma's visit, the American delegates said they hope "the visit would usher in a new era of relations between the two countries, when Ukraine would be able to integrate into the world community". A number of documents is due to be signed in the course of the visit, including those on economic and space cooperation.

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However, American delegation members warned that "no comprehensive cooperation in advanced technologies or space exploration will be possible" until Ukraine ratifies the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. None of the security guarantees Ukraine will be entitled to under the tri-partite statement by the Presidents of Ukraine, Russia and the United States may take effect before Ukraine has joined the NPT.

Radetskyy Reviews Talks With Perry

WS1208144294 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 10 Aug 94 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy by Anatoliy Smetanin; place and date not given: "What Is U.S. Aid to Ukraine?"—first paragraph is KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI introduction]

[Text] As has already been reported, Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy held a telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry on 8 August.

[Smetanin] Who initiated the call and what did you discuss?

[Radetskyy] We spoke for half an hour, from 1600 to 1630, and U.S. Defense Secretary Perry was the initiator of the conversation. We discussed the issue of the implementation of the tripartite declaration of Ukraine, Russia, and the United States. The conversation was prompted by U.S. Vice President Gore's visit to Ukraine and his negotiations in Kiev. No matter whom the U.S. official met—he heard the same kind of things from the president, the Supreme Council chairman, the prime minister, and the minister of defense: Ukraine is fully observing its commitments. As of today, we have, in fact, withdrawn 300 nuclear warheads. Ukraine has carried out all the points of the declaration. In addition to that, we have given experts a chance to see in practice how we keep our word; we are doing everything in the open.

The Russian side, too, fully implements its commitments—it, for instance, has sent us 75 heat-emitting elements and Russian specialists are working in Ukraine.

The U.S. side, however, has thus far only given us some $3 million worth of assistance out of the envisioned sum of $185 million. What does this assistance include? These include around 1,000 tonnes of gasoline, some 1,000 tonnes of diesel fuel, five jeeps, three saws, and 160 batteries.

At present, this causes concern.

Following a meeting with Al Gore, Leonid Kuchma left for Pervomaysk to see how missile division personnel live and work. General Colonel Mikhtyuk, 43d Missile Army commander, very frankly reported to the president that we are meeting our commitments at the expense of the Defense Ministry and not of the funds that are to be allotted by the United States. Thus, there should be no rush with regard to the observance of our commitments. That is why we have to review our work schedules. The president has ordered us to meticulously examine the state and volumes of implementing the planned measures and to report in the immediate future on what has been done, what processes were involved, what difficulties we faced, and what causes concern. I fully support the president on this issue, for we, indeed, should not hurry events—the other side, too, must live up to its commitments. If they fail to do this, I believe we will have to sit down at the negotiating table again and specify our commitments and our future actions

Missile unit officers asked the president several questions: Why are houses not being built for servicemen? Why do the Americans not earmark money for the retraining of retired officers, for social needs, and so on? Incidentally, all these issues were reflected in the tripartite declaration.

After the public has been informed about the actual state of affairs concerning the observance of the declaration by the parties, the U.S. side stepped up its activities. Today's detailed and quite harsh conversation between myself and the U.S. defense secretary testifies to this. The secretary assured me that a commission with vast powers will visit Ukraine next week, that the U.S. Administration has taken into account the results of our negotiations with Vice President Gore, and is going to devote the upcoming months to the problems that are to be resolved in 1994. The U.S. budget for 1995 is compiled at the beginning of September and Secretary Perry assured me that the 1995 budget is going to include the full amount of money to meet the needs of the 43d Missile Army, as mentioned above.

[Smetanin] What else did you discuss?

[Radetskyy] William Perry is concerned with the division of the Black Sea Fleet. I informed him that Ukrainian and Russian expert commissions are going to meet again on 16-17 August, while at present, our specialists are drafting concrete proposals. I told Secretary Perry that when the commissions have finished their work and after I have reported to the president, I will inform him about the adopted decisions.

Incidentally, I thanked Mr. Perry for putting at our disposal the documents on U.S. bases in various regions of the world, the terms of leasing property, and maintaining relations with the governments of those states in which U.S. bases are located—for instance, Japan. Our situation is somewhat special, and many things must be taken into account. One thing, however, is absolute—both the Russian and Ukrainian Navies must exist in the Black Sea. I have no doubt that the two Navies should interact. We are currently working on those problems.

We have a lot of proposals and suggestions. One of them stipulates the formation of a Crimean naval base that would include Kerch, Feodosiya, Balaklava, Sevastopol, and Donuzlav. The Ukrainian and Russian Navies

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should be stationed at this base. In my opinion, they should pay for the lease of the base. We will have to take into account the interests of Crimea, too, to remove tension, for almost 80 percent of the Fleet's infrastructure is located on the peninsula. That is why both Russia and Ukraine should use this infrastructure.

This is just one version, while there are others, as well. The main thing is to take into account the interests of Ukraine, Russia, and Crimean residents, their employment. This is a very fragile structure and we should approach this problem very carefully. I believe that wisdom will prevail and the issue of Crimea and the Fleet will be resolved. I assured my U.S. counterpart of this.

Radetskyy Meets Hungarian Defense Minister

LD1308194394 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] A working meeting between the Ukrainian and Hungarian defense ministers took place in Mukachevo today.

[Unidentified correspondent] The purpose of the visit to Ukraine by Mr. Gyoergy Keleti, minister of defense of the Republic of Hungary, is fairly basic. He was recently appointed as head of the Defense Ministry. Therefore, his wish to meet his Ukrainian counterpart in person and to determine the sides' intentions regarding the further development of military relations is entirely understandable.

Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy, Ukrainian defense minister, received Mr. Keleti at the base of a mechanized formation deployed in Transcarpathia. During the meeting, in which Mr. Dmytro Tkach, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Hungary, and Mr. Istvan Varga, ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to Ukraine, took part, the defense ministers exchanged information on the state of and prospects for the development of their states' armed forces and on their participation in the Partnership for Peace program.

Vitaliy Radetskyy noted that that the time had come to move the sincere and friendly relations between Ukraine and Hungary from the treaty to the practical plane, for there is an urgent need for close cooperation in military industry and material and technical provision not tomorrow, but today.

In accordance with a joint decision by the heads of the military departments, expert commissions of specialists will begin work during a meeting of the chiefs of the General Staffs of Ukraine and Hungary, which is planned for the end of this month. They will determine the sides' needs and possibilities for military-technical mutual assistance. Vitaliy Radetskyy's first meeting with Mr. Keleti took place under the sign of goodwill and constructiveness.

Masol, Sangheli Hold News Conference on Accord

LD1208183994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 12 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Ukrainian and Moldovan Prime Ministers Vitaliy Masol and Andrei Sangheli signed an agreement on mutual recognition of rights and settlement of ownership issues in Kiev.

Sangheli told a news conference afterwards that there had been only minor details to iron out.

He said that they agreed on streamlining the customs control for transit from Moldova across Ukraine. Masol, for his part, said that farm product cargoes from Moldova would be given a green light.

Sangheli also told journalists that an understanding had been reached on all issues, including those which remained unresolved for two years. He said that the professional approach made this possible.

The issue of mutual debts of Ukrainian and Moldovan businesses was analyzed.

Sangheli said that he bore no grudge against Ukraine across which cash was brought to the unrecognized Transdniestrian Moldovan Republic. Sangheli said that the Ukrainian customs officers could not possibly check every carriage crossing the border.

The two sides called for the setting up of a working mixed commission which will solve current problems as they arise.

The Moldovan negotiators said that Russia, Ukraine and Belarus accounted for 80% of the Moldovan turnover of goods.

Kishinev invited Kiev to share in the transformation of Ukrainian state-owned businesses into joint stock societies and asked it to consider the possibility for Moldova doing the same in Ukraine.

Observers believe that the talks have provided a legal framework for cooperation in various fields. Still, some earlier agreements, in particular the trade and economics treaty for 1994, failed to materialize.

Ammunition Bound to Former FRY Seized

LD1208195494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The press center of Ukraine's Security Service reported today that the investigation directorate of the department has accused three citizens of attempting to illegally take 4.5 tonnes of ammunition to the combat action zone of the territory of former Yugoslavia.

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An An-26 plane, loaded with boxes containing 200,000 rounds of rifle ammunition was recently detained at Borispol airport. The joint efforts of customs workers and employees of the Kiev directorate of Ukraine's Security Service stopped the unlawful operation and arrested the persons involved. It was established that the cargo of ammunition had been purchased in Ukraine by the Kenyan armed forces, through an intermediary—a Polish foreign trade enterprise. Its chief specialist, a citizen of Poland (the name has not been given in the interests of the investigation), and also two citizens of our state, have been accused of the crime, as detailed in Article 17.70 of Ukraine's Criminal Code.

Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs has received a note from the Republic of Poland's Foreign Ministry concerning the detention of the Polish citizen. Two lawyers have been defending the Polish citizen's rights since the first days of the investigation. The investigation is continuing.

Debt to Former USSR Increases

LD1508102694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2045 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] On 1 June 1994, the indebtedness of Ukraine's subjects of economic activity to former USSR republics was 34.5 trillion karbovantsi, compared to 30.6 trillion karbovantsi at 1 May this year. We will note that at the beginning of 1994 the total debit and credit indebtedness was determined as 18 trillion karbovantsi, and 28.3 trillion karbovantsi at the beginning of the second quarter.

As a result of Ukraine's credit indebtedness increasing by 3.477 trillion karbovantsi in May, and its debit indebtedness by 355 million karbovantsi, Ukraine's total debt to states of the former USSR increased by 312 million karbovantsi. Of this sum 2.867 trillion karbovantsi is the increase in indebtedness to Russia, above all for the supply of energy-carriers. (FINANSOVA UKRAYINA, No 32, 10 Aug 94)

National Affairs

Kuchma Appoints State Property Fund Chairman

LD1208204994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on Friday appointed Yuri Yekhanurov, 46, acting chairman of the State Property Fund.

Yekhanurov, an ethnic Buryat, graduated from Kiev's Institute of National Economy in 1973. He holds a doctorate in economics and has held senior positions in construction firms in Kiev.

In 1988-1991, Yekhanurov was deputy head of the construction department of the Kiev City Executive Committee. In 1992 he became deputy governor of Kiev and simultaneously head of the department of economic reforms and regional programs.

On July 29, parliament passed a resolution on measures to improve privatization procedures and passed a no-confidence vote in Vladimir Pryadko, who had headed the State Property Fund for over two years.

Decision To Suspend Privatization Explained

LD1308121594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] The Supreme Council Commission for Issues of Economic Policy and Economic Management gave its explanations in connection with numerous requests from privatization bodies and the work collectives that express their wish to privatize their enterprises' property. The commission said that in compliance with item 2 of the Supreme Council Resolution of 29 July 1994, the conclusion of agreements on buying, selling, and leasing-to-buy enterprises of nationwide importance was suspended. This refers to the fuel and energy complex and other branches of the extractive industry, excluding the extraction of building materials; main railway, sea, pipeline, and automobile transport, electronic communication means and metallurgy whose property is owned by the state and which belong to the basic industries of our economy.

This decision remains valid until the Supreme Council approves a list of facilities that are not subject to privatization. Meanwhile, the State Property Fund and its bodies are obliged to carry out all other kinds of work connected with the process of privatization of the above enterprises, that is to accept applications for privatizations, set up relevant commissions, draw up an inventory of the property, and carry out its valuation. The ban on the conclusion of the agreements on buying, selling, and leasing-to-buy does not refer to the facilities that are municipal property.

Chairman Says Ukrainian Republican Party Drifting

LD1308204794 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] The spirit of the Ukrainian Republican Party has left it, and the party struggle has been left to drift. This is a quote from the speech by Levko Lukyanenko, honorary chairman of the party, at a working theoretical sitting of the Ukrainian Republican Party, which took place today. This inauspicious conclusion was evoked not only by the defeat of the republicans at the recent parliament elections, but also by the steep fall in this political organization's prestige. Levko Lukyanenko also said today that he is not striving to become head of the Ukrainian Republican Party.

Party Denounces Russian Moves on Chechnya

LD1508115194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Republican Party has denounced actions by Russian leaders against Chechnya.

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The Party statement, issued in Kiev on Sunday, denounces the "open provocational interference by Russia in the internal affairs of the Chechen Republic, aimed at overthrowing its constitutional authorities."

The Party believes that Russia's actions could cause "another Karabakh in the North Caucasus."

Ukrainian officials, however, have failed to comment on developments in Chechnya.

A high-ranking Ukrainian diplomat, in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine, called the problem "Russia's internal affair."

Repeat Parliamentary Elections Set for 20 Nov

LD1508103094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev August 15 TASS—The Ukrainian Central Electoral Commission has announced that repeat parliamentary elections in 52 constituencies will be held on Sunday, November 20. The elections are to be held in those districts where, in the voting on July 24 and August 7, either voter turnout invalidated the poll, or no candidate was elected.

With that in mind, the presidium of the Crimean republic parliament and the concerned district, municipal, city regional, village and country councils of peoples' deputies are to re-man or reform their electoral commissions.

The Ukrainian parliament now has about 400 of the required 450 deputies. Three deputies have left the chamber: Two were denied the recognition of their mandates, and deputy Leonid Kuchma vacated his seat upon being elected president of the country.

Every fourth Ukrainian parliamentary representative is a Communist. The nationalist Narodnyy Rukh has about six percent of the seats, while the Peasant Party has five, and the Socialists, four. Overall, the leftist forces command a majority in the parliament.

Kravchuk Agrees To Run for Parliament

LD1208162294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1130 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Ternopol [no date as received]—UNIAN learned today that former president Leonid Kravchuk has agreed in writing to run in a Supreme Council by-election in Terebovlyanskiy constituency No. 364. According to Ivan Nakonechnyy, the district electoral commission secretary, Kravchuk's agent Bohdan Ternopilskyy submitted to the commission today all the papers necessary to register the future candidate. Kravchuk was nominated by a group of 10 voters. Ivan Nakonechnyy has no doubt that Leonid Kravchuk will be elected a people's deputy of Ukraine despite the fact that the previous candidate in the constituency, Roman Kuper, spearheaded his campaign with criticism of the former president's policies. "Times are changing, and so are people's views," Nakonechnyy said. UNIAN is informed that Slava Stetsko, the leader of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, also plans to run in this constituency.

Human Rights Organization Officially Registered

LD1508131394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev (no date as received)—The All-Ukrainian Committee for the Defense of Human Rights [Vseukrayinskyy Komitet Oborony Prav Lyudyny] was very recently registered at Ukraine's Ministry of Justice. Its purpose is to help safeguard human rights and freedoms in Ukraine. It will study the reasons for human rights violations and help eliminate them. The organization has been campaigning for state recognition for almost a year.

Deputy Comments on Barter Trade, Integration

LD1208200694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 12 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] A stable finance and credit system is needed for CIS member states to be closely integrated, said Victor Suslov, head of the Ukrainian parliament's Finance and Banks Commission.

Asked by Interfax-Ukraine to comment on Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's proposal that an agreement on closer integration within the CIS be signed next October, Suslov said that integration processes will not be easy for countries engaged in barter trading.

According to Suslov, this was the case of Ukraine's trade with most of the newly independent states. He said that Ukraine's export to these states has increased from $1177.4 million in the first quarter to $1312.6 million in the second quarter, the balance being not in Ukraine's favor.

Suslov emphasized, however, that the export to the countries with which barter trade was not prevalent has increased over the same period from $874.3 million to $1210.7 million, the balance being $761.4 million in Ukraine's favor.

Commenting on the results of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to Ukraine, Oleg Taranov, chairman of the parliamentary Economic Policy Commission, said he views the Eurasian integration "from a purely pragmatic point of view." He said he welcomes whatever is good for Ukraine.

Kuchma Urged To Honor Campaign Promises

WS1208123994 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 6 Aug 94 p 2

[Article by UNIAN correspondent Oleksiy Mustafin: "In Half a Year Kuchma Will Have To Get Down to Business"]

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[Text] Two years as president earned Leonid Kravchuk the formidable image of a "shrewd politician." For many, this image was an additional argument in favor of the ex-president, for others, a reason to vote "against" him. Still, everyone was convinced that Kravchuk was "slick," and Leonid Kuchma, on the contrary, cultivates the image of a "candid and simple guy." The leading line of his campaign was a perception that "he never lied to anyone," as Kuchma himself said at a news conference organized after his election as president. If the former prime minister wants to retain this image, he will be forced to make good on the promises he so generously made during the election campaign. Given their large number, this is not going to be all that simple.

Even today, looking at posters left over from the campaign, Leonid Kuchma solemnly assures the electorate that he will "have enough powers even in July" to bring order to the country. July has come and gone, but more order is nowhere to be seen. True, the president was quick enough to issue an edict on intensifying crime-fighting modeled on the known edict by Yeltsin. No sooner, however, had the ink dried on that edict than the parliament leaders have started to hint at the president's violating the Constitution (not without reason, though, but this is not an issue). So, will the newly elected president have "enough powers?"

One of Kuchma's leading slogans was "Less Politics, More Economics." Or, as one journalist noted, "Economy Uber Alles". But what did Kuchma begin with when he became president? With changes in economic policies? Not at all. Although words about the need to eliminate the fixed karbovanets exchange rate were actually uttered, words and deeds are two different things. During the election campaign, Kuchma himself admitted this. Posters with "Words and Deeds; Make Your Choice" can still be seen all over the streets. But perhaps the pictures they carry are out of place?

Actually, it is difficult to imagine how Kuchma is going to conduct reforms with no reformists in the government. Plus, they should not be expected to appear in the immediate future. At some point, Kuchma tried to voice the need for personnel changes. But the reaction of Vitaliy Masol was equally resolute—the government is 90 percent complete and needs no radical changes. The Supreme Council chairman, too, hurried to support the prime minister: "If the prime minister maintains that the government is 90 percent complete, changes can only affect the other 10 percent." This appeared as outright mockery. The popularly elected president having influence over only 10 percent of the executive branch!

It turned out, however, that even this 10 percent is not guaranteed. It was generally assumed, for example, that the president will appoint new interior, foreign, and defense ministers. Still, the slightest hint that Anatoliy Zlenko may have to resign was enough to trigger a backlash from Mykhaylivska Square. Zlenko demonstrated reaction and knowledge becoming a diplomat, and quickly secured support for the prime minister, who then assured everyone that it makes no sense to "alter foreign policies." As for Vitaliy Radetskyy, journalists already see him leaving his post, and even mentioned the name of his successor. Some even linked the painting of the General Staff building to reshuffles in the Defense Ministry. It seems, however, that changes did not go any further than the painting. The newly appointed Interior Minister Radchenko, too, can hardly be considered a "man of Kuchma." His appointment is most likely is a continuation of reshuffles within "power" ministries initiated by Masol before the presidential elections. Let us recall here the confirmation of Yevhen Marchuk as deputy prime minister and Malikov as chief of the Ukrainian Security Service.

As of now, the only government appointment that Kuchma made on its own is the replacement of Ivan Dotsenko with Valeriy Pustovoytenko as minister the Cabinet of Ministers. This, however, did not come as a surprise—Pustovoytenko proved a skillful architect of the election campaign which "earned" him this position. In addition, he in fact regained the position he occupied during Kuchma's term as prime minister. Of course, the position of a minister at the Cabinet of Ministers is quite important—but only if this minister is a man of Masol, who has many tools in store to keep Pustovoytenko under control and even strip him of power should the latter mount opposition against him.

Speaking about the already made or possible appointments, we have not once touched upon the ones having otherwise something to do with the economy. It appears that after the elections, Kuchma lost interest in economic matters. There is also another, albeit very close to the first one, explanation. The former prime minister became too accustomed to being an "unrecognized genius," a reformist who is prevented from conducting reforms. This is a very convenient position. It relieves him of any responsibility and allows for all- out criticism. This is why Kuchma outscored and beat Kravchuk during the elections. Of course, to avoid a harsh confrontation—akin to the still-fresh one which occurred in Russia—the newly elected president must play by the rules thrust upon him and keep an eye on Masol, whom Kravchuk left "in a token of appreciation." Naming one's own people for really important positions, however, also means assuming responsibility—particularly when this calls for fighting against a stronger opponent, such as Masol. It is a lot easier to pretend to be a "man whose efforts are stalled," and capitalize on that.

Here is where one significant question arises. When Kuchma was a director, his efforts were stalled by the prime minister. When he became prime minister, he accused the president of opposing reforms. Now he has become president himself. More than 14 million people cast their ballots for him. However, the disguise of a "man whose efforts are stalled" will not save him for long. In about half a year, after "surrendering" Masol, he will have to form his own government. Then we will see the "business" which Kuchma promised us.

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Two Explosions Take Place in Simferopol

LD1308125794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1216 GMT 13 Aug 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, 13 Aug—Two powerful explosions went off in the Crimean capital on Friday. The first happened at about one in the morning when a device at the door of one of the apartments on Sixtieth Anniversary of October Street went off. The framework of the door was blown out along with glass and the elevator shaft was damaged. A bomb exploded in the same area at four in the morning. It had been put in the ventilation pipe of the "Mukhuch" restaurant. The press service of Crimea's Interior Ministry said that fortunately there were no casualties this time.

So, terrorist acts continue in the republic and appear to be turning into a daily event. On 10 August there was a concentrated attack in broad daylight right in the center of Simferopol, on a building in which various businesses have their offices. Several machine guns opened fire at once, then a grenade was thrown in. Two people were killed and two injured.

According to information revealed at a recent sitting of the Crimean Parliament, there are one or two murders a day in the republic, mainly involving the use of fire arms. Seventeen people have been killed during fights between criminal groups alone since the beginning of the year. There are now about 120 of these groups.

Crimea's Meshkov on Relations With Kiev, Russia

MK1308101894 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 4

[Interview with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov by Yelena Shesternina in Moscow under the "Personalia" rubric: "Yuriy Meshkov Would Not Divulge the Names of his Interlocutors"; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shesternina] Yuriy Alekseyevich, tell me, how is life in the Republic of Crimea at the moment?

[Meshkov] Despite the gloomy predictions that were inspired by the former Ukrainian government with the help of some mass media, all of Russia is currently vacationing in Crimea. Without doubt, this corresponds to our economic interests. It is a pleasure to see the many happy faces of our guests, little kids. All this is wonderful. I think the situation will develop further and Crimea will continue to be a traditional vacation place for Russians.

[Shesternina] How are you getting on with the new Ukrainian government?

[Meshkov] Earlier, the former Ukrainian leadership held a hostile attitude to us. That was undisguised hostility, threats like "if you venture something else, we will deprive you of water, electricity, gas, fuel, and so forth" were heard, but that approach to a part of one's own state and one's own people—and Ukraine considers Crimea to be such— was absurd in principle. The country's new leadership has so far not been known for any nationalist ambitions or sentiments. Most of them are reasonable people. But they will also have a hard time, given the incompatible attitudes of western Ukraine and eastern Ukraine to the Republic of Crimea. This will be a source of considerable trouble for some time to come.

At any rate, I am convinced that the new Ukrainian leaders are people with whom one can reach agreement and who understand our viewpoint. They are attuned to the same goals as we are—the restoration and unification of our economic relations, the creation of a common economic space with Russia.

So, if there is a common goal, all other problems are amenable to solution, at least I hope so very much.

[Shesternina] Yuriy Alekseyevich, you were effectively absent from meetings of the conference [the 26th International Conference of the World League for Freedom and Democracy in Moscow]. I do not think that you spent the time sightseeing in Moscow. Presumably you must have had meetings with Russian leaders, haven't you?

[Meshkov] Well, the meetings were bilateral...

[Shesternina] Then you did have meetings?

[Meshkov] Yes, I did, and these were very serious and encouraging ones at that. Their result is bound to have an impact.

[Shesternina] Whom did you meet with specifically?

[Meshkov] You know, since these were bilateral meetings, I would not like to complicate certain relations by divulging additional information. It would be better to take it easy rather than to give additional explanations. This is very encouraging and is fully in line with the interests of both Crimea and Russia. I can only say that the talks were devoid of any political tinge.

General Staff Academy To Begin Training 1 Sep

LD1408131094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] The newly established Ukrainian General Staff Academy will start training senior military officers come 1 September. A list of about 200 students is reported to have been approved for the new military educational institution's (?two departments). The General Staff Academy will train officers for both the Armed Forces and the National Guard.

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Interview With National Space Agency Chief

LD1408125794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2020 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev, 13 Aug—Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev completed his official visit to Ukraine on 13 August. Negotiations between Ukrainian government officials and members of a U.S. delegation led by Ashton Carter, assistant secretary of nuclear security and counterproliferation, have ended. One of the main issues discussed at these meetings was cooperation in space. Our correspondent asked Andriy Zholko-Tytarenko, acting director of Ukraine's National Space Agency, to comment on these negotiations and the general state of affairs in Ukraine's space industry.

Andriy Zholko-Tytarenko: We inherited unique property from the former Soviet Union. Nowhere in the world has greater space potential than we have. We received the world's largest missile-building complex in Dnepropetrovsk as well as the Kharkov MGO [expansion unknown] "Khartron" design bureau, which is a leader in the design of spacecraft control systems. Suffice it to say that the latest generation of heavy SS-18 and SS-24 ballistic missiles, the "Zenit"—the most up-to-date launch vehicle for space programs—and the "Tsyklon" rocket, which has the world's best statistics as far as launches and breakdowns are concerned and which is the world's most reliable rocket, were all created in Dnepropetrovsk. A military complex control system and a control system for the "Enerhiya-Buran" complex were created in Kharkov. Altogether more than 140 enterprises are involved in Ukraine's missile-building industry. Therefore, there is no question about whether or not Ukraine is a space state; it is indeed a space state. People should realize and understand this. Ukraine's space industry enterprises were mostly engaged on military projects and operated in secret.

Ukraine's know-how is unique. Neither Russia, nor the United States, nor France have such design efforts. However, we should find areas for their application.

Our space agency is concerned about the situation with Baykonur. We can only work with Baykonur. This is the only launch site from which Ukrainian rockets can be launched. The U.S. side is interested in utilizing Baykonur as an international space station. Ukraine is also directly taking part in this project. In addition, we supply Baykonur with a lot of various items of equipment to support the cosmodrome's infrastructure. Without Ukraine's participation this cosmodrome would have ceased its activity.

Toward the end of last year there was talk of Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan utilizing Baykonur on joint-stock principles. Russia and Kazakhstan then agreed on leasing Baykonur. I think the issue of joint use of the cosmodrome will be resolved in the near future. It only remains for our countries to come to an agreement on this issue.

The U.S. side brought us some news which greatly pleased and inspired us. On 5 August a decision was made on the U.S. Government's new program for creating long-term space transport systems, in other words, the building of a new generation of rockets for the U.S. space program. This decision is a considerable step toward deepening cooperation. During the "Cold War" all space vehicles were developed on a national basis. Now the door is open for the use of other states' space-launch vehicles and new space technologies and developments for the creation of long-term U.S. space systems. It is very important that we find our place in this activity and this place must be worthy of our potential. The work on the U.S. orders is very important; this is why I believe—and this is my personal point of view—that it is most important that we retain the collectives of people who make rockets. This is most important. We will be able to build rockets only if we retain space industry professionals, and to do this we should provide them with jobs. The United States is giving us such an opportunity.

Question: What will Ukraine gain in practical terms by designing space technologies and launch vehicles for the U.S. space program?

Andriy Zholko-Tytarenko: First, these are currency earnings. What is more, these currency earnings would not make Ukraine the kind of "banana" republic which exports raw materials or is forced to agree to provide sites for the kind of harmful enterprises which no one else will agree to have. These would be currency earnings for the design of high technologies. These earnings would exceed all other earnings. High technology is a very valuable and expensive commodity.

Question: What space programs are currently elaborated in Ukraine, apart from designing launch vehicles and space technologies?

Andriy Zholko-Tytarenko: Everything we are now doing is directed at the peaceful use of space. We are currently developing programs in the following areas: communications, monitoring of the environment, and space experiments, in particular, the creation of unique biological preparations and unique materials under conditions of microgravity.

Question: Are there any Ukrainian space devices in outer space now?

Andriy Zholko-Tytarenko: The first launch officially registered as a Ukrainian-Russian one took place on 2 March this year. That was the "AOS" [Expansion unknown] scientific laboratory, which is a continuation of the "Interkosmos" program. It was launched from the Plesetsk cosmodrome using the Ukrainian "Tsyklon" launch vehicle. The laboratory itself was made in Dnepropetrovsk, and a large part of the scientific program is being carried out in the interests of Ukraine.

The launch of a Ukrainian national satellite to monitor the environment is planned for 1995; this will be followed by the launch of a communications satellite. Our

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program envisages one or two launches of Ukrainian satellites per year until 1997. After 1997, we plan to launch an international orbital space station "Alfa." At present, the official participants in this project are the United States, the European Space Agency, Japan, Canada, Russia, and Ukraine. We are taking an active part in the project by carrying out technological work. Not a single karbovanets from Ukraine's state budget will be used for this project.

Question: Could Ukraine draw up space programs and put them into practice on its own?

Andriy Zholko-Tytarenko: No, this is impossible and unnecessary. We cannot create an entirely closed cycle of creation and operation of space technologies in Ukraine. From the technical point of view this is entirely possible, with the exception of rocket launches, not because we are incapable of building a cosmodrome, but because we need an area where the first stage of a rocket can fall, and we cannot single out a single such site on the territory of Ukraine.

I do not see any sense in creating a closed cycle of production of space technology in Ukraine. We should integrate with Russia, and we should work with Russia. And after all, Russia is a market for our space industry.

Our contacts with Russia are very close. We could not survive without Russia, and Russia could not survive without us. Not a single Russian space device could fly without the participation of Ukrainian enterprises. Not a single Ukrainian space device could fly without the participation of Russian enterprises.

As far as political issues are concerned, we are holding talks with Russia on creating an international legal base for the resolution of all issues of cooperation. This simply requires time.

Official on Nation's Uranium, Zirconium Supplies

LD1508130694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1008 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent for TASS Yelena Alikhanyan]

[Excerpts] Kiev, 15 Aug—"Ukraine has every opportunity to organize production of its own nuclear fuel for nuclear stations," Viktor Baryakhtar, chairman of the Commission for Nuclear Policy under the president and academician at the National Science Academy, told a UKRINFORM correspondent.

Ukraine has everything for this, he said. The country has significant prospected reserves of uranium, which the specialists say will last for at least 100 years, taking into account the current increase in energy consumption. Ukraine also has a virtual monopoly in former Soviet states on production of zirconium, the next most important component for making nuclear fuel. [passage omitted]

The uranium enrichment stage is omitted from the plan for production put forward by Ukraine's State Committee for the Use of Nuclear Power. The Committee says it would be better to buy this from abroad and that quantities of natural uranium could be given as payment. Simple economic calculations show that, setting up its own—though not complete—nuclear energy production, the country will achieve virtual independence in the sphere of nuclear power, Baryakhtar said. The hard currency spent on buying fuel will be approximately halved and a considerable number of jobs will be created in several oblasts.

Nuclear Body Addresses Leaders on AES Safety

LD1208164294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1130 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Odessa [no date as received]—UNIAN learned today that the Odessa-based Ukrainian Nuclear Society has written to the president, the chairman of the Supreme Council, and the prime minister of Ukraine expressing serious concern at the situation in power engineering, a sector which accounts for 42 percent of Ukraine's requirements for electric power. The appeal says that a difficult situation has developed at all Ukraine's nuclear power plants. The national distribution center at the Ukrainian Ministry of Power Engineering, which mediates in the sale of "peaceful atoms" to energy consumers, owes nuclear power plants 1.7 billion karbovantsi. Nuclear power plants are unable to pay for the supply of new fuel, equipment and spare parts, which affects the stability and safety of power generating sets.

"Unless urgent measures are taken," the letter says, "as early as this autumn, nuclear engineers will be forced to stop (?five-six) generating sets with a capacity of 1,000 megawatt each, due to poor safety standards, which will result in a loss of 20 percent of electric power produced in the state. Thermal power stations will be unable to offset shortages caused by lack of crude oil, gas and coal, and Ukraine's power grid will face the threat of destruction." In view of these circumstances, the Ukrainian Nuclear Society is calling for not only a clear state strategy with regard to the nuclear power complex, but also urgent government action to safeguard the work of nuclear power stations during the autumn and winter of 1994-95.

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Belarus

President Aims To Defend Belarusians Abroad

LD1308202694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenka has instructed the Foreign Ministry to establish a permanent information channel with states containing compact populations of Belarusians. The main aim is to obtain objective information in order to be able to respond urgently where required. Deputy Prime Minister Viktar Ganchar is scheduled to meet the ambassadors of those states where these issues are most acute in the near future.

New Interior Troops Commander Appointed

LD1208130894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1054 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By BELINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 12 TASS—"I do not demand that the interior troops be loyal to me personally, but I ask for making an adequate contribution towards establishing order in the republic," said Byelorussian [Belarusian] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka while introducing Major-General Valentin Ogolets, the newly appointed commander of the interior troops, to the personnel.

In the past, Ogolets served in Uzbekistan. Upon his arrival in Byelorussia, he was appointed to the post of the first deputy commander of the interior troops. The then leadership of the Interior Ministry held him in disfavour, however.

Now that his predecessor General Platonov was dismissed, Ogolets stepped into his shoes.

Lukashenka Sets Up TV, Radio Company

MK1208125294 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No.32/57 12-18 Aug 94 (Signed to press 11 Aug 94) p 2

[Report by Vitaliy Taras from Minsk under the "Press" rubric: "Consider Yourselves Free"]

[Text] "Consider yourselves free." These words addressed to journalists at his first news conference were repeated by Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka once again at a meeting with television and radio workers.

Under his edict, the State Television and Radio Committee was transformed into a national television and radio company. Lukashenka also promised that the economic control department, which has been subordinated directly to the president, would examine how they spend proceeds from television and radio advertisements.

Grigoriy Kisel, editor-in-chief of the MOGILEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI newspaper, known for his statements in support of Lukashenka when the latter was harassed as chairman of the parliamentary commission investigating corruption in the high echelons of power, was appointed chairman of the television and radio company.

Kisel was highly laconic in formulating his credo: "Objectivity." Presidential press secretary Vladimir Yadrinskiy, who formerly worked on Belarusian radio, became first deputy chairman.

Isolation From 'Partnership for Peace' Viewed

WS1508105394 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 5 Aug 94 p 1

[Article by Captain Vladimir Kuts, VO SLAVU RODINY correspondent: "Can Belarus Afford the 'Partnership'?"]

[Text] *Independent experts from the National Center of Strategic Researches, journalists, and members of the peace-loving community have met with Defense Ministry experts at the Belarusian Committee for the Defense of Peace.*

The participants in the meeting were primarily interested in the basic directions of military policy and features of Belarus' military doctrine, issues of making the army a professional one, and problems involving the presence of Russiann servicemen on Belarusian soil. At the same time, the military people suddenly came in for some criticism over... the international treaties to reduce nuclear weapons and military hardware. Why, though, blame them if Belarus inherited those treaties from the former USSR? On the other hand, why cannot the republic, which is on the verge of economic collapse, patch up the holes in its budget with its excess combat equipment instead of making holes in its own armor? The explanation is too simple, which makes one wary. It was not Belarus, but the USSR that signed those treaties. Russia was the legal heir of the USSR. It follows that one should seek understanding from Russia. However, as it was noted at the meeting, it would be difficult to blame the United States for simply disregarding such "understanding." A treaty is a treaty.

Standing in proud isolation, Belarus is alone among the CIS states not to have joined the Partnership for Peace progam. Is it yet again far behind the rest of Europe? No. There are problems of another kind. For example, how can this program be compatible with our Republic's neutrality? Neutral Finland, according to its defense minister, hopes to reduce its arms expenditure through this program. It seems obvious, but the "partnership" may also cost the little Belarusian pocket too dearly. The poor count their money right down to the last penny, not to mention $200,000 for maintaining the technical staff who may participate in the program. Furthermore, there will be expenditure on the joint exercises scheduled for

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September, November, and October, as well as environmental compensation for the states where those exercises will be held. There are many things to be considered.

However, let us put the pen aside and think about the main questions. How will the security of our state be ensured? Why is the United States abandonding the idea of a professional army? These were the questions that were repeatedly discussed at the meeting. As a result, some very clear conclusions were drawn.

A nation can protect itself only by creating an army on the basis of universal conscription. The question is to what extent the nation wants to protect itself. A professional army, on the other hand, regardless of how good it is, cannot provide the training of strategic reserves. In Belarusian conditions, the army of 30,000-40,000 professional servicemen is doomed. They may fall on the battlefield in the very first hours of war. Who will replace them—people not capable of handling a gun?

However, putting the matter like this may seem today out of date. Is anybody going to attack us? Who wants us? Well, the possibility of a third world war is practically zero, but the danger of regional conflicts has increased considerably. God alone knows where the next conflict may be provoked. One should be ready for anything, even though Belarus does not consider any state to be its potential enemy. The centuries-old experience of Switzerland and other neutral states only confirms this view. Neutrality is one thing, but the army has to be as advanced as possible.

Moldova

Snegur, NATO's Walters View Russian Army Pullout

LD1208160194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 12 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur said he was sure Moldova's independently-minded Russian-speaking enclave of Transdniestria [Transdniester] would receive a special status before the last Russian soldier left his country.

At a meeting with General of the Army John Waters, deputy commander-in-chief of NATO forces in Europe, Snegur said Moldova and Russia had reached a compromise on the deadline for the withdrawal of Russian troops, Moscow agreeing to pull out its 14th Army within a three-year period.

"It is very important that the armaments held by the Russian 14th Army should be transported to Russia by the military. This tremendous amount of armaments must by no means be allowed to fall into the hands of individuals who might once again provoke an armed conflict," he said. IF Note: Russia, at the 10th round of talks that ended in Kishinev on Wednesday, agreed to withdraw its troops from Moldova within three years after a relevant accord, subject to approval by the two countries' governments, took effect. Moldova, for its part, pledged to try to settle its conflict with Transdniestria.

Colonel-General Eduard Vorobyev, deputy commander-in-chief of Russia's land forces, has commended the troop withdrawal agreement, reached on August 9-10. In an interview given to Interfax on Thursday, he expressed the hope that it would ease the standoff between Moldova and Transdniestria.

Vorobev said "nobody has dismissed" Lieutenant-General Alexander Lebed as commander of the 14th Army. He said the defense minister's directive to restructure the 14th Army command had been brought to Lebed's notice several days after it had come out.

"I think that, if General Lebed expresses the desire to go to (the Transdniestrian capital) Tiraspol and supervise the work of bringing the command structure of the army into conformity with the numerical strength of its units, he will not be refused," Vorobyev said.

IF Note: Analysts believe that Lebed's dismissal is in the interest of a considerable part of the Transdniestrian leadership, whom the general has been accusing in the past year of abuse of authority and corruption.

Officials View Reorganization of 14th Army

LD1508100394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0915 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] August 15 TASS—The command of Russia's Fourteenth Army stationed in Moldavia's [Moldova] Dniester area holds a conference of its officers today to work out the personnel's stance with regard to the earlier announced reorganisation of the army's command.

"Since the army commander Aleksandr Lebed returned on Sunday, upon cutting short his vacation, we no longer feel depressive, we know what to do," said Tiraspol's military commandant Mikhail Bergman.

According to Bergman, "as rumours spread about the army's forthcoming reorganisation, groups of arms traders have begun to arrive from every part of the world in search of easy gains."

Kishinev appears to be viewing the latest developments in Tiraspol with equanimity. "The reorganisation of the Fourteenth Army command is the Russian Defence Ministry's exclusive concern and we do not intend to interfere, Moldavian Deputy Foreign Minister Nicolae Osmokescu told ITAR-TASS. "Our position with respect to the Russian Army remains unchanged—the army must leave the republic's Transdniestrian part within three years". A military adviser to Transdniestrian leader Igor Smirnov, General Stefan Kitsak told ITAR-TASS that "the Russian Army was, is and will be a

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guarantor of peace and quiet in the region. Only those want to remove it from Transdniestria who want to rob Russia of its influence on the Balkans".

Lebed Interviewed on 14th Army Situation

LD1408220094 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Interview with Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed by Sergey Barbanov in Tiraspol on 14 August—live or recorded]

[Text] The army problem was prominent last week following the Russian military leadership's decision on the future of the 14th Army stationed in the Dniester region. Having interrupted his holidays, Lieutenant-General Lebed, commander of the army, told a news conference today that he regards the disbandment of the army administration as a crime and is prepared to resign in order to distance himself from carrying out the decree.

Sergey Barabanov has the details.

[Begin recording] [Barabanov] The future of the 14th Army's headquarters stationed in the Dniester region is still unclear. Lt.-Gen. Lebed, commander of the army, arrived there last night and today held a news conference for journalists who had flown into Tiraspol from all over Europe. Having said that he did not cling to the post, especially considering the fact that as of 1 September he is entitled to a pension, the general remarked that he would like very much, however, to clarify what had happened to the more than 20,000 firearms given to the Dniester region's government during the events of the summer of 1992 and to take part personally in determining the future of the officers of his headquarters.

Aleksandr Ivanovich, the press has widely publicized a pronouncement made by a high-ranking general from the Defense Ministry to the effect that General Lebed will return to Tiraspol only to pick up his things. You, however, feel quite confident in your office. What are you doing here, and what are you going to do?

[Lebed] I returned yesterday and sent a telegram to the commander-in-chief of land forces saying that as of yesterday, 13 August, I had resumed my official duties (?and will use the remaining leave) to bring order to the chaos that I had found here.

[Barabanov] Is the process of implementing the directive on disbanding the army administration underway now? What is the state of the army headquarters now?

[Lebed] It is Sunday today, so it is not underway.

[Barabanov] And what about tomorrow?

[Lebed] I do not know. For the time being this matter has been frozen. I have not sorted things out enough yet, I will tackle this business tomorrow morning.

[Barabanov] Has any commission been set up or sent from Moscow to deal with the issue, or is everything still at the level of that document?

[Lebed] I seems that it is at the level of the document. Colonel-General Vorobyev made that announcement and that document brought certain confusion in the minds of officers and generals. So far nothing has been done in real terms, things will become clearer next week.

[Barabanov] What is the motive behind this decision? Is it a political decision or a purely military or organizational one, or is it simply our traditional mess?

[Lebed] I would not venture to say in all certainty what the motive is. I can say firmly only one thing—that first the army should be disbanded or withdrawn, and if the army is to be disbanded the administration should be disbanded together with the army, and the administration should be the last to abolished itself, after having solved all the issues, including housing, ecology, and so on. That is the way it should be, and common sense and the practical experience of withdrawing and disbanding troops confirms that. For some reason all the processes started the other way round here. They started by cutting off the head in the hope that arms and legs would move and function without control from the head. But this cannot be.

Criminal structures are competing between themselves, they are already rubbing their hands anticipating how they will steal weapons. Some local public organizations are getting ready to act promptly to blockade, seize, and so on. A certain military and political balance of forces has taken shape here by itself. And taking this balance into account nobody is tempted to attack anybody else. If this balance of forces is upset in such a rushed and ill-thought-out way, the risk of a conflict or aggression will increase by many times. The two banks are divided by an abyss, a deep and wide abyss, although invisible. There is blood in the abyss and it is here to stay. We should not expect that we can call on people to forget everything and live as we used to in 1988 or 1989. One cannot kick one's neighbor and 10 minutes later ask him for a loan. He will not agree.

[Barabanov] Do you know who made the decision on signing the directive? After all, it is the president's or, at least, the defense minister's prerogative to decide on the future of an army and its commander. Do you know their stand on the situation?

[Lebed] The thing is that your question is incorrect. The directive was signed by the defense minister. If he signed it he must have read it, which means that this is the defense minister's decision, at least. But it is interesting to know who made the proposal and whether it was agreed with the president. But I do not know this. The defense minister signed the directive, though.

[Barabanov] You have said that if the directive is implemented you will leave the army, especially as you have served for 20 years.

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[Lebed] Of course, I will leave the army. I do not want to be an accomplice to a preplanned crime, since in these conditions the disbandment of the army administration is a crime.

[Barabanov] If you leave the army, do you see any future for yourself in politics and, if yes, what future?

[Lebed] I have not yet pondered this question. I have given up long-term planning quite some time ago, because it often falls through and it does not make sense to waste time and thoughts on it. All problems should be solved in sequence. Something will turn up.

[Barabanov] So General Lebed has returned to the 14th Army and it seems he is not going to pack his things. He is going to be at the head of a process, the question is: what process? Of disbanding the army administration or of preserving it? We will see next week. [end recording]

Criticizes Withdrawal Agreement

LD1408142794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1224 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] The commander of the 14th Russian Army deployed in Transdniestria (a self-proclaimed republic on the territory of Moldova), Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed spoke negatively about the results of the 10th round of the Moldovan-Russian talks. Addressing on Sunday a news conference at the army staff in Tiraspol, he said that the disbandment of the army is a "crime".

During the Russian-Moldovan talks on the fate of the 14th Army, which took place recently in Kishinev [Chisinau], the two sides agreed that it would be withdrawn from Moldova within three years. The Tiraspol authorities also disagree with the decision. They believe that first a political status of Transdniestria should be resolved.

General Lebed said that he was not going to be "an obedient performer" of the decision about the Army disbandment without account being taken of the real situation. "If need be, I will resign, the more so that on September 1 there will be 25 years since I have been serving in the Armed Forces," said the commander.

He denied rumours spread by some media about his resignation on Moscow's initiative. The general said that during his recent trip to the Russian capital no one proposed him new posts.

Speaking about the implementation of the Russian-Moldovan agreements concerning the Army, Lebed said that the process was "frozen" by him and beginning from Monday he will start clear up the situation.

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Kazakhstan

Iran's Velayati Visits Kazakhstan

Improvement in Bilateral Ties Discussed

LD1308112694 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA—The visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting Saturday in Almaty with Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko discussed bilateral ties.

Expressing his satisfaction over Velayati's visit to Kazakhstan, Tereshchenko termed the talks with Iranian officials as another positive step towards promotion of mutual relations. Inviting Iran's First Vice-President Hasan Habibi to pay an official visit to Kazakhstan, he called the exchange of visits between officials of the two countries effective in upgrading ties.

Meanwhile, the two sides discussed the axis for agreements to be reached between the two countries and both officials underlined the profound willingness of presidents of the two countries in further deepening bilateral relations and in promotion of regional cooperation. To take advantage of Iran's expertise in the field of free trade zones as well as the industrial and oil cooperation, transportation, formation of joint economic commission and trade exchanges were among other topics discussed by the two officials.

Velayati and his high-ranking delegation after meetings with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev will leave this afternoon for Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The Iranian foreign minister started his six-nation Central Asian tour Tuesday. He arrived in Tashkent Tuesday for a two-day official visit and later on Wednesday he left Uzbekistan for a two-day visit to Turkmenistan. He left Ashgabat for Kazakhstan Friday.

Oil Transit Via Iran Discussed

LD1208160994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 12 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text) President Nursultan Nazarbayev believes that the potential of the Kazakh-Iranian cooperation is not used fully. Meeting on Friday in Alma Ata [Almaty] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Nazarbayev said that though bilateral relations are developing dynamically, now it is necessary to give them a new impetus and go over to the implementation of the earlier signed agreements.

The president particularly noted Iran's role in solving the transport problems of Kazakhstan and, particularly, concerning the deliveries of the Kazakh oil and cargoes via Iran to the world market.

IF Note: At present well-organized is the car route Kazakhstan—Iran—Turkey which makes it possible to deliver cargoes in a cheaper way. Being worked out are transit versions for oil tankers and other ships from Aktau (western Kazakhstan) to Iran via the Caspian Sea.

The Iranian Foreign Minister has confirmed his country's readiness to discuss with Alma Ata imports of Kazakh oil to the north of Iran in exchange for deliveries of equal quantities of Iranian oil to third countries via terminals on the Persian Gulf.

Velayati spoke positively about Nazarbayev's initiatives to strengthen confidence measures in Asia. He believes that Iran and Kazakhstan may play a stabilizing role in the region.

Velayati also said that the Iranian leadership received the draft of a Euro-Asian union which was initiated by the Kazakh president, and that he will express his attitude after studying it.

Speaking about regional problems, for example, the situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, the two sides agreed about the need to help the inter-Tajik negotiations, the third round of which is to be held in Islamabad (the second round took place in Teheran in June—"IF").

Also under discussion were the problems of the Caspian Sea. The two sides re-affirmed their preparedness to cooperate in determining the status of the Caspian Sea and its use.

Velayati handed over to Nazarbayev the personal message of the Iranian President with the invitation to visit Iran at suitable time. Nazarbayev accepted the invitation and handed over the invitation to the Iranian president to visit Kazakhstan.

Nazarbayev believes that regular visits and meetings by the leaders of the two countries affect positively the development of bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

IF Note: In autumn 1993 Kazakhstan was visited by the Iranian president. In May Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko visited Teheran. The two sides signed over 30 documents, including on the creation of a joint trade and industrial chamber, and trade houses.

Earlier Velayati visited Tashkent and Ashkhabad, where he had talks with Uzbek President Islam Karimov and President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan.

Local Movement Urges Slavs Not To Emigrate

MM1208122994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Ardayev under the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "Slav 'Lad' [Harmony] Movement Urges Fellow Nationals Not To Leave Kazakhstan"]

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[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty]—The exodus of people from Kazakhstan is increasing and already runs into hundreds of thousands, an appeal by the republic's Slav movement says.

But no better fate awaits the Slavs elsewhere. Many CIS states are, to put it bluntly, slamming the door in the face of emigrants arriving from "prosperous" Kazakhstan, without giving or even promising them either work or city residence permits and without giving them land in rural localities. Bearing in mind the close historical, cultural, and ethnic bond between the peoples populating Kazakhstan, the appeal's authors urge their fellow citizens to stay in the republic and build a new state all together.

Kyrgyzstan

Iran Foreign Minister Velayati Visits Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Welcomes Expansion of Relations

LD1308210294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister, met Mr. Askar Akayev, president of Kyrgyzstan, on Saturday evening in Bishkek, the capital of that republic, and conveyed a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to him.

In the meeting, the president of Kyrgyzstan welcomed the expansion of relations in all areas with our country and described the Islamic Republic of Iran as an important country and a great system [nezam] in the region that can play an effective role in the stability and security of Central Asia.

Mr. Askar Akayev conveyed his warm and sincere greetings to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and said: We have great respect for him. He also described the visit of the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran as beneficial for the expansion of relations between the two countries and called for the greatest possible expansion of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. He also supported the Tajikistan peace talks that were held in Tehran. He also stressed the need for the expansion of transport-related activities by Kyrgyzstan and Iran and for the linking of that country with the rest of the world via Iran.

Mr. Velayati, for his part, said that contact between the two countries' officials was essential for the expansion of cooperation and for the establishment of peace and stability in Central Asia, and especially for peace in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Before the meeting, Mr. Velayati and Ms Rosa Otunbayeva, Kyrgyz foreign minister, discussed the expansion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries in political and economic affairs.

Mr. Velayati arrived in Bishkek, the capital of the repbulic of Kyrgyzstan, from Almaty, capital of the republic of Kazakhstan, on Saturday evening in continuation of his tour of Central Asian republics.

Iran's Role in Tajik Peace Process Noted

LD1408113494 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Bishkek, Aug. 14, IRNA—Tehran-Bishkek cooperation in regional affairs and joint efforts for maintaining stability in the region and restoration of peace in Tajikistan were among important topics discussed in a meeting between the visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev here Saturday.

Akayev described Iran as an important country and a big regional government that can play an effective role in maintaining stability and security in Central Asia. He said Velayati's visit to Bishkek could be fruitful in the consolidation of bilateral ties and called for expansion of cultural, trade, economic and regional cooperation.

President Akayev stressed that Iran can play an important role in the establishment of peace in Tajikistan adding that his country will render assistance in this connection. Supporting continuation of peace talks in Tehran, he expressed hope that the process would lead to understanding between the belligerent parties in Dushanbe.

Velayati who arrived here Saturday from Almaty underlined the importance of the exchange of visit between presidents of the two countries for the promotion of mutual ties. Stressing that establishment of tranquility in Tajikistan and Afghanistan was vital for the regional stability, he warned that Tajikistan would turn to a new Afghanistan if problems in that country remained unsettled.

Velayati said that holding of the elections with the participation of candidates from various parties under the auspices of the United Nations and regional countries will serve as a significant measure towards establishment of tranquility in Tajikistan.

The Iranian foreign minister started his six-nation tour of the Central Asian countries last Tuesday. He has so far visited Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

Government Puts Parliamentary Newspaper on Trial

LD1508103194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0805 GMT 15 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 15 Aug—A legal action aimed at closing down SVOBODNYYE GORY [FREE MOUNTAINS], the newspaper run by the Zhogorku Kenesh (the Kirghiz

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[Kyrgyz] Parliament), began today at the Pervomayskiy district court in the republican capital.

The application, made on behalf of the state by the country's general procuracy, says that "for a long time the newspaper has been systematically publishing deliberately false information aimed at discrediting state bodies and the legitimate state authority, as represented by the president. The newspaper also prints material which violates civil and ethnic principles and deliberately insults the leaders of foreign powers and the symbols of those countries. All this inflicts substantial harm on the interests of the state, its unity and stability."

The lawsuit is noteworthy in being the first trial in Kirghizia's [Kyrgyzstan] history where the defendant is a newspaper—and parliament, the founder of the newspaper, is a third party.

The decision to set up the paper was made at a session of the Zhogorku Kenesh, which also appointed the editor.

Tajikistan

Presidential Election Campaign Heats Up

Key Oblast Backs Ex-Premier

MM1208114194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Arkadiy Dubnov: "Tough Battle for Post of Head of State Expected in Tajikistan"]

[Text] Khudzhend—The head of the Tajik regime, Emomali Rakhmonov, has received two serious blows at once. First, a serious electoral competitor has emerged. Second, the UN secretary general's representative charged with the Tajik settlement, Ramiro Pires Vallon, disillusioned by the present Tajik leadership's policy, has refused to go to Dushanbe for talks with Rakhmonov. According to well-informed sources, he is returning to UN Headquarters and will prepare a new proposal for a peace settlement in Tajikistan. If these proposals are turned down, the UN mediators are inclined to abandon their peacemaking mission altogether.

Rakhmonov suffered defeat at a Leninabad Oblast Soviet session where presidential candidates were nominated. Under the law on elections scheduled for 25 September, only one candidate from each oblast may be put forward, who subsequently has to collect the signatures of at least five percent of the republic's electorate in order to be registered at the Central Electoral Commission. Leninabad Oblast has more than 40 percent of the total population of the republic entitled to vote and more than half the current [ethnic] Tajik electorate: The candidate who gets backing there has a real chance of winning the election. That is precisely why Supreme Council Chairman Rakhmonov sought to win the candidate's mandate there, in the north of Tajikistan, where the republic's technical and intellectual potential is concentated.

However, the voting results proved depressing for Dushanbe. Only one fifth of the deputies—33 people—voted for Rakhmonov. The majority of votes—124—were cast for the candidacy of Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, the republic's former prime minister and, since December 1993, Tajikistan's ambassador in Moscow. Abdullodzhanov's dismissal with subsequent honorable exile was the result of a behind-the-scenes power struggle in Dushanbe and generated at the time disguised displeasure in Moscow.

The figure of Abdullodzhanov, given the current situation in the republic, where a civil war is still going on in the republic and a state of emergency persists on almost half the territory, can be regarded in two ways. On the one hand, the nomination of Abdullodzhanov, representative of the influential Leninabad clan, which has traditionally held the main levers of power in Tajikistan in its hand, may be regarded as a reversion to the habitual configuration of forces, which, however, harbors the danger of renewing regional-cum-clan showdowns, which were one of the causes of the civil war.

On the other hand, Abdullodzhanov, who was nominated for the post of premier in May 1992, back during the time of the coalition government, with the support of the Tajik opposition, can also seriously count on votes from other regions where the opposition's influence is great. We are talking here about Gornyy Badakhshan, Karategin, the Garm group of rayons...

Moreover, there is a lot of evidence that Abdullodzhanov will also receive the votes of those ready to support another potential presidential contender—Safarali Kendzhayev, former chairman of the Tajikistan Supreme Council, who holds a strong position in the Gissar Valley. Kendzhayev is clearly ready to join Abdullodzhanov's team. This means that the disgraced ex-premier can really claim to have a consolidating role in the republic rent by regional discord.

Abdullodzhanov is ready, in his own words, to engage in a more vigorous search for compromise in the Tajik opposition, for whom the current leader, Rakhmonov, is unacceptable as a political partner, as he was one of the field commanders of the procommunist People's Front which came to power in November 1992. This factor could prove decisive, as the third round of inter-Tajik talks, which were due to be held in Islamabad, has effectively been wrecked. This happened after the Tajik parliament's decision on 20 July to hold presidential elections and a referendum on the new constitution in short order. This step was interpreted by the Dushanbe opposition as indicating a desire to wreck the accords achieved during the first round of inter-Tajik dialogue in Moscow, whereby discussion of the constitutional system and holding of elections would be discussed only after the achievement of a political settlement, including an agreement on halting combat operations and the return of refugees.

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Opposition Leader Comments on Elections

LD1208173494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0953 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe, 12 Aug—The political council of Gornyy Badakhshan's democratic opposition believes that "truly free and democratic elections for president of Tajikistan are impossible in conditions of political instability, the ongoing inter-Tajik conflict, as well as the impossibility for hundreds of thousands of Tajik refugees in forced emigration to take full part in the elections," Ulfat-Khanum, the political council's coordinator and a leader of the Pamir opposition, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent by telephone today. According to her, the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet's decision to hold simultaneously a referendum to adopt a new republican constitution and presidential elections contradicts the accords of the Moscow round of inter-Tajik dialogue. At the same time, she went on, if the Gorno-Badakhshan corps of deputies takes part in the election campaign, in the name of attaining peace and national accord as soon as possible, Pamir's democratic forces will support a candidate to Tajikistan's top state post who, in their view, will be able to unite the nation and stop the bloodshed. This should be a person who is not involved directly in the armed conflict on either side, is capable of political compromises and expresses the interests of all regions, Ulfat-Khanum concluded.

At the same time, Pamir parliamentarians are in no hurry to elect their candidate to the post of president. The extraordinary session of the oblast Soviet scheduled for 9 August, at which deputies were to have nominated a candidate to the post of head of state in accordance with the Supreme Soviet's law on presidential elections, did not take place today, either. It has been provisionally moved to 24 August.

Union Federation Endorses Rakhmonov

LD1208140694 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Excerpts] A conference of the Trade Union Federation of the Republic of Tajikistan was held today. More details in the report of our correspondent, Boris Khairuddinov:

[Khairuddinov] One question was examined at the conference: the nomination of a candidate to the post of president of the Republic of Tajikistan. I will immediately say that the conference participants were unanimous on this question. The overall view was expressed by Abdulmajid Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan. Listen to what he said:

[Begin Dostiyev recording] We have been working with Emomali Sharipovich Rakhmonov for more than one-and-a-half years now and for about four years in the parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan. Today you unanimously nominated him as the candidate to the post of president, and for this I am grateful. [passage omitted]

It is very good that you nominated Rakhmonov to this post. During our three years of independence we have had two presidents, six chairmen of the Supreme Soviet, five chairmen of the Council of Ministers, and so many deputy chairmen! What did all this give us ? Nothing! It didn't improve things nor did it make things worse! We voted here and we must now work and not think about it! [end recording]

The conference Presidium carried out the voting. One candidate was nominated: His Excellency Emomali Rakhmonov, the present head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan. Representatives from all the regions of the Republic of Tajikistan participated in the conference.

'Observers' Question Official Accounts of Fighting

LD1208184694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0955 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe, 12 Aug—Fighting continues between the Defense Ministry units and antigovernment groupings in the Pamirs Tovil-Dara rayon in Tajikistan. Rumors that the opposition has stepped up its resistance in the region do not correspond to the facts, Vasiliy Likholet, head of the press center of the republic's Defence Ministry told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today. He said the situation in some eastern areas remains difficult, but it is under the control of the government army.

In the words of a Defense Ministry spokesman, concrete measures have been taken to localize the conflict and prevent the opposition groups from penetrating into the republic's central areas. The government units have been put on alert in the Garmskiy group of rayons, where it is not ruled out that scarce armed groups might step up their activity.

At the same time, in the opinion of independent observers and sources close to the Pamirs opposition, the official information about the situation in the region is subjective, and does not quite correspond to the facts. According to these sources, the numbers of the antigovernment groupings, or the soldiers of the rebel army as they call themselves, have been considerably understated. There is no official data about the losses among the servicemen of the government army.

An information vacuum surrounding the events in the Pamirs region is prevailing in the local media. And an absence of full and objective information about the situation in eastern regions is being substituted, as a rule, by rumors and conjectures.

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Turkmenistan

Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati Visits Turkmenistan

Iranian Agency Cites Niyazov Praise for Iran

LD1108132094 Tehran IRNA in English 1241 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Ashgabat, 11 Aug (IRNA)—A message from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was delivered to his Turkmen counterpart, Saparmurad Niyazov, by the visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Thursday.

Niyazov and Velayati discussed regional and international issues as well as Tehran-Ashgabat ties. They agreed with setting up of joint political, economic and international committees to explore avenues for bilateral cooperation.

Niyazov praised roles of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in promotion and consolidation of Tehran-Ashgabat relations.

Referring to historical commonalities between the two countries as well as cultural bonds between the two nations, Niyazov welcomed expansion of bilateral relations within the framework of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Lauding Iran's peace efforts in Tajikistan, the Turkmen president underlined the need for exchanging views with the Iranian officials over the problems of Central Asia. He expressed his country's willingness to help advance the two countries common goals on the basis of mutual interest.

Velayati briefed Niyazov on ECO's new economic measures and its cooperation with other regional economic organizations and described the measures as vital for overall progress of ECO.

He underlined the importance of promoting and facilitating trade between the two countries' businessmen and called it as a right step in the direction of promotion of bilateral ties.

Referring to the forthcoming visit of Niyazov to Tehran, scheduled for next September, Velayati stressed that the visit will further boost Tehran-Ashgabat relations.

Iran's foreign minister also said that restoration of peace in Afghanistan and Tajikistan will be to the benefit of the regional stability and the two nations.

Peace in Afghanistan and national reconciliation in Tajikistan will be materialized only through peaceful and political solutions, foreign minister stressed.

Velayati, on a tour of several Central Asian republics, arrived here from Tashkent Wednesday [10 August].

On his first round of talks with the Turkmen vice-president Wednesday night, the two officials discussed bilateral relations and the developments within ECO.

Turkmen Radio Cites Need for Mutual Trust

LD1308163694 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 0200 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Saparmurad Niyazov received the Iranian foreign minister yesterday [11 August]. The question of multifaceted development of relations between the two countries was the main theme of the talk when Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov received members of the Iranian delegation headed by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who are visiting our country. Foreign Minister Velayati conveyed the friendly greetings of Iranian President Rafsanjani to Niyazov. Foreign Minister Velayati said that at a time when relations between the two countries were developing, the whole world realized that the services of Niyazov and President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani were immensely important. He said: [word indistinct] attaches great importance to the sensible policy Niyazov follows toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. Not only with Iran, but also with leaders of various large and small countries, Niyazov succeeds in [words indistinct]. We strongly believe that relations between the two neighboring countries will strengthen even more.

During the talks, President Niyazov expressed his sincere gratitude to Rafsanjani for his warm greetings and talked about the main directions of Turkmenistan's foreign policy; our independent country and its economic, political, and social situation; and the situation in the region. [sentence indistinct]

During the meeting the two sides comprehensively discussed the question of broadening the relations between the two countries. (?They stressed the importance of) trusting and understanding each other. It was pointed out that making preparations for the draft agreements to be examined during President Niyazov's official friendly visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran this month would be useful. There will be no doubt that the talks between President Niyazov and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will contribute to strengthening the cooperation between the two countries.

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Armenia

Agreement Reported on Exchange of POWs in N-K

LD1408184694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] An agreement has been reached between the conflicting sides in Nagorno-Karabakh to exchange all the POWs and hostages as a sign of goodwill and of the strengthening of mutual trust. The exchange will be carried out with the International Red Cross as mediator.

This information is given in a report from the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, circulated in Yerevan today, on a working meeting between the delegations of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan, and Armenia that was held in Moscow on 5-13 August. It was held on the initiative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The draft of an agreement, proposed by Russia, for the settlement of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh was discussed.

Turkish 'Grey Wolves' Accused of Military Activity

NC1308110994 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0810 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("AZG" daily), 08/13/94—Despite relative calmness at the conflict zone, the Azeri forces continue to shell the Karabakh defense positions from time to time.

According to the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] defense army, the Armenian defense positions at the villages of Talish and Sisulan in the Martakertskiy district, Shurabad and Suma in the Aghdamskiy district, and Karakhanbeyli in the Fizulinskiy were shelled in the night and morning of August 12. No casualties are reported. The Karabakh forces refrained from returning the fire.

The RMK military reconnaissance reports significant concentration of the enemy manpower at the eastern and south-eastern directions of the front. According to captured radio communications, two attack groups of Turkish "Grey Wolves" are operating in the Fizuli direction. The observers believe, active military support of Turkey has the goal to fail the negotiations in Moscow with Russian mediation.

Economics Minister Yegiazarian Interviewed

LD1208182694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 12 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosian, of Armenia, has described wider economic cooperation with American partners as one of the main objectives of his trip to the United States. He was speaking on the eve of the voyage. To what extent Armenia is prepared to cooperate with industrialized Western countries to mutual benefit was the chief topic of the following exclusive interview with the Armenian Economics Minister Armen Yegiazarian.

INTERFAX: How realistic are Armenia's hopes for equitable cooperation with other countries?

YEGIAZARIAN: Our programs for macro-economic regulation have been welcomed and approved by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other international organizations rendering assistance to countries with transitional economies. We hold negotiations with those organizations as equals. In the macroeconomic aspect they see Armenia as a serious partner.

INTERFAX: Will it be correct to say that the economic crisis is being gradually overcome? Is there a plan for further reform?

YEGIAZARIAN: Above all we pay attention to the leading industries once crucial to the Armenian economy: Armelektromash, Razdanmash, Nairit and others. All of them are in operation, although not to the full. There are quite a few remarkable programs for modernizing the so-called "post box enterprises" - classified defence plants and research institutions once known only by their post box numbers. The situation is not so bad as it is described sometimes. Armenia's gross national product totalled 2.7 billion dollars, 780 dollars per citizen last year. True, industrial production has been down 75% - 80% as compared with 1985-1988. However, one must bear in mind that stability then was guaranteed by centralized capital investment and subsidies.

Economic restructuring has been changing the situation for the better. We hope to achieve a 15% industrial production growth this year as compared with last year.

A relatively acceptable average monthly per capita has been maintained (15-20 dollars) at the expense of government bread subsidies, discounts on urban transport fares, the price of electricity and communal services and free education and health service, as well as considerable humanitarian assistance from abroad.

Yet, the standard of living over the past few years has declined chiefly due to the growing defence spending.

The Cabinet's immediate plans include the construction of an oil refinery on the basis of the Polivinilatsetat plant. The recommissioning of the Armenian nuclear station by the beginning of next year is to become a major factor for an economic upturn. We believe that capital investment at the expense of foreign credits would give a boost to the Armenian building industry. We hope to keep farm produce at least at last year's level. In general a great deal depends on the performance of the agricultural sector, because the share of that industry in the overall industrial structure is 50% against the previous 18% - 20%.

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INTERFAX: When do you think the transition period you've mentioned will be over?

YEGIAZARIAN: It is still very far from completion. It will be over when 70% - 75% of industries have been placed in private hands, when the monthly inflation rate has fallen from the current 9% - 10% to 3% - 4%, when external trade relations have been settled, including those with neighboring countries, and the credit rate is down to 18% -20% a year.

There are a number of other targets to be met. So I would refrain from giving any definite forecasts as far as deadlines are concerned. At the same time I am certain that that period would be successfully overcome if reforms continue in several directions: - privatization and decentralization, banking and finances, budget, tax and customs services and a new relationship between the state and farm producers.

It is quite obvious that Armenia, an industrial country for many years cannot be happy about the prevailing role of the state sector. However, this is a temporary phenomenon for which the industrial recession is to blame. If industrial enterprises start to work at least at 40% - 50% of their capacity and if the building and investment complex is more active at least by 30%, the share of agriculture would return to the original 25% - 30%. This can be achieved within one or two years.

Finding an appropriate place in the world and integrating with the world economy is another goal. For that we have all the pre-requisites: industrious and skilled personnel, impressive fixed assets and a decent level of education, science and engineering. All the warnings Armenia is doomed to have the plight of a third world country, let alone parallels with Somalia, look inappropriate to me, to say the least.

True, the considerable scale of emigration is an alarming sign, but I am certain that this process can be reversed. As the economic situation improves, people will begin to return.

INTERFAX: Is the private sector you pin so much hopes on productive enough?

YEGIAZARIAN: The current share of the private sector in trade is above 60%, in agriculture, 80% and in the Gross National Product, 30%, which have already yielded indisputable and tangible benefits. This is one of the reasons why Armenia managed to receive nearly 300 million dollars worth of humanitarian, technical and material assistance in 1993. That was one of the most impressive achievements of the government and its policies.

Azerbaijan

Hushed-Up Karabakh Settlement Talks Spawn Rumors

MK1308095894 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Arif Useynov under the "Talks" rubric: "Will a Big Political Agreement Be Signed? Talks Under Way Near Moscow on Karabakh Conflict Settlement"]

[Text] All three sides involved in the Karabakh conflict are scheduled to sign a big political agreement on 31 August. This date has been set by the heads of the military departments of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as by the heads of armed formations of Nagorno-Karabakh, who endorsed a document extending the truce for another 90 days.

The Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan advises that the talks, held near Moscow with Russia taking part to hammer out the text of a big political agreement, by 12 August went through yet another stage having considered the question on creating a neutral zone and the siting of observer posts. A large group of diplomats and military experts representing all the interested sides is working on the draft. Azerbaijan's state councillor on foreign policy matters, Vafa Gulizade has admitted that the work on the document is moving ahead with difficulty, but he is confident that "all the obstacles will be cleared and the agreement will be submitted for signing." The state councillor has pointed out that Chairman of the Minsk CSCE Group Jan Eliasson has not started yet on a painstaking elaboration of the draft treaty, whereas Vladimir Kazimirov, Russian Foreign Ministry ambassador at large, is taking the most active part in this work.

Azerbaijan's public, and even more so its opposition parties, are dissatisfied with information reaching them about the work on the agreement. Describing the document as capitulatory and defeatist, the leaders of the parties claim that the authorities are hiding the whole truth from the people. The meager information, which is also being interpreted in different ways by officials, spawns multiple rumors and conjectures which are being used to jack up passions, especially anti-Russian passions.

It remains unclear if the Azeri refugees are going to return to their homes in Shusha and Lachin, and what status Nagorno-Karabakh is going to receive under the agreement. The leader of the Azerbaijani Democratic Party Sardar Dzhalalogly thinks Azerbaijan has lost the Karabakh war, but the military and political defeat gives no right to the republic's leaders to agree to capitulation terms. The bloc of "Democratic Congress" parties has adopted a statement opposing Russia's part in the negotiating process. The absence from the Moscow talks of the Minsk CSCE Group representatives has given cause to doubt that the international organization is capable of bringing the settlement of the conflict to its logical end.

According to information from Ambassador of Turkey to Azerbaijan Altan Karamanogly, which he shared with the VATAN news agency, "Azerbaijan will sign an agreement drafted with CSCE participation, guaranteeing the territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of the state which has been subjected to aggression."

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Democratic Congress Decries Russian Peace Plan

NC1308105194 Baku TURAN in English 0956 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Baku, August 12 (TURAN)—Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, during his visit to Washington, expressed that Russian troops should promote the stop of the Armenian-Azeri war, according to Radio "Liberty".

According to Ter-Petrosyan, the use of Russian troops is the best opportunity for establishing peace, for separation of warring parties and the insurance of Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenians' security.

Last week the president Bill Clinton stated that "he would not object to the presence of Russian peacemaking forces, if that would be approved by the CSCE and if the peacemaking forces would be under the necessary control."

Azerbaijan's ambassador in the USA Khafiz Pashayev in his interview to "NEW YORK TIMES" expressed the doubt concerning the location of Russian peacemaking forces around Nagorno-Karabakh. Khafiz Pashayev noted that Azerbaijan supports the idea of location in the region the international observers, and not the peacemaking forces. Besides, Azerbaijan can agree with location of peacemaking forces if the terms of their withdrawal will be stipulated before.

Russian plan of the settling the Armenian-Azeri conflict, which is the base of the Major Political Agreement, concerns the Azeri public. Number of political parties expressed their negative attitude to the plan submitted by Russia. Democratic Congress states that in the Armenian-Azeri conflict, Russia is a political and military ally of Armenia, and that is why the draft of Major Political Agreement (MPA), prepared by Russia contradicts the state interests of Azerbaijan, reads the statement of the Democratic Congress, addressed to Butrus Butrus-Ghali, General Secretary of the United Nations Organizations, to UN Security Council and to states-members of the CSCE Minsk group.

Democratic Congress noted that settling of the conflict should be conducted under the leadership and mediation of not only one separate country, but the international organizations, such as CSCE.

The statement reads that Democratic Congress does not admit the draft of the MPA, prepared by Russia and will assess the deployment of Russian troops to Azerbaijan as military intervention.

The Congress notes that for Azerbaijan the MPA is in fact a humiliating peaceful plan, worked out by Russia.

Democratic Congress appealed to UN General Secretary and to UN Nations Security Council to demand from Armenia immediate fulfillment of the resolutions adopted by these international organizations and to adopt a resolution, prohibiting the deployment into Azerbaijan under the peacemaking status military forces of any state.

The Democratic Congress was established on March 23, 1994. It includes the Azerbaijan's Popular Front, Parties "Musavat", "Ana Torpag", the Democratic Party and Popular Party of Liberty.

Introduction of Russian Peacekeepers 'Aggression'

LD1308203594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Another round of the talks on a settlement to the Karabakh conflict has ended in Moscow. Taking part in the talks, with the mediation of Russia, were delegations from Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh; the Minsk CSCE group was also present. A plan for a final cessation of military actions, the disengagement of the conflicting forces to previously agreed boundaries, and the setting up of a buffer zone were proposed to the sides. It is in this zone specifically that it is proposed that international security forces should be introduced, and that Russian subunits form the backbone of them.

Today, however, in an interview with the TURAN agency, Dzhavadov, the Azerbaijan deputy minister of internal affairs, stressed that the deployment of armed forces of any individual country in the conflict zone will be viewed as aggression against Azerbaijan. According to Dzhavadov, the introduction of Russian peacekeeping forces, even together with CSCE observers, will also be viewed as aggression.

One of the members of the Karabakh delegation also reported to Interfax that the Azerbaijani side tried to exclude from the draft agreement any mention of Nagorno-Karabakh as a conflicting party, without which, in the opinion the source, the implementation of the whole document hangs in the air.

Iran's Velayati Arrives, Begins Talks

LD1508100494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, at noon today. He was welcomed by that country's officials.

According to a Central News Unit correspondent in Baku, the first round of talks between our country's foreign minister and Hasan Hasanov, the foreign minister of Azerbaijan, have begun. Mr. Velayati will also hold talks with the prime minister, the parliamentary speaker, and the president of Azerbaijan.

Before leaving for Baku this morning, Mr. Velayati met the parliamentary speaker of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek. The

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two sides stressed the importance of strengthening relations on the basis of their mutual interests.

Aliyev Acknowledges Economic Crisis

LD1208194894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1145 GMT 12 Aug 94

[By Azertac correspondents Alla Baula and Aslan Aslanov - TASS]

[Text] Baku, 12 Aug—Rather than improving as expected, the economic situation in Azerbaijan is getting worse—in spite of the steps being taken to reshape the republic's economy and in spite of its great industrial and agricultural potential. This was acknowledged by President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan on 11 August when he addressed a conference at his office on the economic situation in the republic.

It was noted that the republic's economy is in critical condition. In the first half-year industrial production fell by 25 percent, and national income by 24.5 percent. Oil production, for example, was 4.7 million tenge [t], 490,000 t less than the same period last year. The reduction in supplies of crude oil available for refining led to fuel shortages in the republic itself and jeopardized its plans to earn hard currency by exporting diesel.

The participants in the conference described speedy privatization as the best way of resolving the crisis. This would make it possible to improve the republic's extremely grave financial situation and to create a credit reserve. It was proposed that profits ploughed into reinvestment should be exempt from tax and that mandatory state orders should be abolished from 1995.

Economic Meeting Shows Lack of 'Common Approach'

NC1308114094 Baku TURAN in English 0956 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Baku, August 12 (TURAN)—As was earlier reported, yesterday there was the meeting, during which economic situation in Azerbaijan was discussed. The meeting was chaired by President Aliyev.

The meeting showed that there is no common approach to settlement of economic problems among the leadership of the republic. The ministers sought the reasons, which worsen economic situation, elsewhere and asked President Aliyev for help.

The Minister of Finance, Fikret Yusupov, said that budget deficit, which over the past six months totalled 30 billion manats, can be accounted for artificial increase in industrial showings, delay in production realization and realization of products by state enterprises to the commercial structures. The Minister of Finance said that presently budget resources are lent to commercial enterprises. He called on President Aliyev to take drastic measures to prevent these crimes and suggested creation of special body engaged in implementation of Presidential decrees.

At the same time, President of state company "Azerneftkhimmash", Roushan Ismailov, said that the goods worth 1.3 billion manats are piled up at the warehouses of the company. He said that the goods cannot be sold without preliminary payment and asked President Aliyev to lift the ban.

There was found out that there is no common information about the situation in economy. For example, the Chairman of Customs Committee, Tair Aliyev, said that the plan for custom taxes total 10 billion manats, the Minister of Finance said 40 billion manats, and President Aliyev 8 billion manats.

The Minister of Economy, Samed Sadykov, put forward several proposals. "We have to take measures for attraction of foreign investments and privatization", said Sadykov. The speaker of Parliament, Rasul Guliyev, suggested the same proposals. Rasul Guliyev said that development of economy is impossible without broad attraction of foreign investments in Azerbaijan.

Georgia

Conditions for Return of Refugees Said Achieved

MK1308082294 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 5

[Report by Mekhman Gafarly in the "Abkhazia" column: "All Conditions Have Been Created for the Refugees to Return, Believes the Russian Peacekeeping Force Commander"]

[Text] On Thursday in Tbilisi during a meeting between Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and Vasiliy Yakushev, commander of the Russian peacekeeping forces in the zone of the Georgian- Abkhazian conflict, it was stated that all conditions had already been created for beginning the return of refugees to Abkhazia's Galskiy Rayon. Shevardnadze's press office said this process will begin within the next few days.

Lately Abkhazian leaders have been preventing the return of refugees, insisting that this process should start only after Georgian troops have been finally withdrawn from the Kodor ravine. The Georgian Defense Ministry reported that all Georgian units had left the Kodor ravine at the beginning of this week.

Sukhumi however considers such announcements as not corresponding to reality. A statement circulated Thursday by the Abkhazian Defense Ministry notes that up to 120 regular army servicemen remain in the ravine, as well as up 200 Georgian border guards, up to 500 fighters of other Georgian armed formations, also up to 12 armor pieces, up to 26 artillery systems, and 40 air defense systems. The document said that Georgia's

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border troops are on Abkhazia's territory: in the areas of the Klukhorskiy, Marukhskiy and Ptyshskiy mountain passes.

Sergey Dbar, chief of the Abkhazian army general staff, said in an interview with INTERFAX that Georgian troops are being concentrated in the town of Saken in the Kodor ravine, which is a gross violation of the ceasefire and troop disengagement agreement of 14 May 1994. In his opinion, "this can be attributed only to Georgia's wish to retain the Kodor ravine as a militarily advantageous springboard for new combat actions."

Meanwhile an informed source in Tbilisi reported that Gudzha Kurashvili, commander of the Georgian Ground Forces, is planning to leave the Kodor ravine, from where he has directed Georgian troops for the last four months, on Friday, together with his bodyguards. "Therefore not a single Georgian army serviceman will remain in the Kodor ravine," the source stressed.

Official Skeptical on Russian Patrolling of Kodor

LD1408183294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] It's two years ago today since the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict began. Around 10,000 people have died over the time of the fighting. The latest agreement on a cease-fire and on separating the forces was signed on 14 May, and at the beginning of summer Russian peacekeeping forces entered Abkhazia. Meanwhile, in the opinion of Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Tamaz Nadareishvili, it is hardly possible to hope for a favorable outcome to the conflict as long as Ardzinba is in power in Abkhazia. The peacekeeping efforts of Russia will affect the situation, of course, but will not resolve the essence of the confrontation, the deputy prime minister stressed.

Meanwhile, Abkhazia has declared 14 August the day of commemoration of those who perished in the Georgian-Abkhaz war. In connection with this, the Supreme Soviet of the republic adopted an appeal to the people: "An end to the war would give the multi-ethnic people of Abkhazia a chance to return peace to our land once and for all," the document says. We managed to contact Stanislav Lakoba, first deputy of Vladislav Ardzinba.

[Begin Lakoba recording] Over the past two years, it may be said that although the war has not yet ended officially, the truce is continuing. Talks are underway with the Georgian side with the mediation of Russia and with the participation of the United Nations. Certain steps have been taken. A compromise and versions of a compromise are being examined. The most important thing is that the present truce should be preserved. We hope that we will be able to find points of contact if the approach of the Georgian side is a sober one. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Russian peacekeeping troops are continuing to guarantee the security of the population in the conflict zone. According to information from Georgian sources, Russian forces begin today to patrol the territory controlled by the Svan home guard. However, the Abkhaz side thinks that patrolling is not very effective. Stanislav Lakoba expresses such a point of view.

[Begin Lakoba recording] Patrolling by itself will not yield very much, of course, since the peacekeeping forces should not just patrol—they should go in and, in line with the agreement which was signed, putting it bluntly they should remove the remnants of the Georgian formations remaining in the Kodori gorge to outside the territory of Abkhazia. [end recording]

One Person Said Killed in Abkhaz Interrogation

LD1408163594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Sakinform reports that yesterday, 13 August, the Abkhaz side moved 200 police to the Gali rayon villages of Kvemo Bargebi, Zemo Bargebi, Ganakhleba, (Gagida), Otobaia and Nabakevi. The police forced about 300 Georgians out of their homes and gathered them in Zemo Bargebi's Culture House for questioning, during which Georgians were physically and verbally abused. (Arkipo Tsaava), a native of the village of Zemo Bargebi, was killed during the interrogation. Women were treated with inhuman cruelty. As a result of intervention by the command of the Russian peacekeeping forces, most of the prisoners were freed. However, the Abkhaz decided to keep up to 10 men as prisoners. They also took 25 people to the Inguri bridge and forced them to cross into Zugdidi rayon.

Genocide and ethnic cleansing are still continuing in the village of Ganakhleba, where 138 Georgian families are in fact being held prisoner. Militants' actions are putting their lives in danger.

The above-mentioned incidents have caused extreme anxiety among the Georgian population of Gali rayon, as a result of which up to a hundred people have already left the rayon and crossed into Zugdidi.

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Estonia

Foreign Ministry Condemns Russian Border Demarcation

LD1208172294 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Estonia issued a statement today, which says that the Foreign Ministry views with deep concern the information that the Russian Federation has started demarcation work on the line that it considers to be the Estonian-Russian state border.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry notes that Russian Federation's unilateral action is taking place at a time when the meeting between Lennart Meri, president of the Republic of Estonia, and Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, on 26 July gave new impetus to the development of relations between the two states.

The statement also says that in the negotiations between the states, Estonia has constantly been seeking solutions to the issue of the state borders, including the creation of a legal foundation for the activities of the border troops.

The Foreign Ministry continues to hold the irrevocable position that the only valid agreement defining the state border between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation is the Tartu Peace Treaty of 1920. The treaty is specific concerning the position of the natural borderline supported by a document called State Border Book between the Estonian Democratic Republic and the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

The Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of 1939, just recently renounced by the Russian foreign minister, and the Soviet occupation of Estonia in 1940 have not had an impact on the validity of the abovementioned treaty or document describing the border, the Foreign Ministry statement says.

Specialists Ready To Dismantle Paldiski Reactor

LD1208174094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The command exercise carried out in the Estonian town of Paldiski on Monday showed that the appropriate services are ready to start dismantling the nuclear reactors of the Training Center of Russian Submarine Officers, Paldiski Military Commander, Colonel Raul Luks told INTERFAX.

Luks said that during the exercise the issues of safety, ability to evacuate the population in the case of an accident and coordination of Russian and Estonian efforts had been worked on. Luks said that both Russian specialists and Estonian representatives taking part in the exercise are satisfied with its results.

The Russian party is responsible for the practical organization and implementation of work. Russia confirmed that it will notify Estonia seven days before work is to begin. In accordance with an agreement reached by the Russian and Estonian Foreign Ministries on July 30, the dismantling of the nuclear reactors situated 40 kilometers to the southeast of the Estonian capital must be completed by September 30, 1995.

Luks added that the flag of the Russian Training Center was lowered today and the Russian patrol had been replaced by the Estonian one. Estonian patrol officers will be guarding the center except for the halls where the reactors are situated. On Monday the official transfer of the training center to the Estonian Defense Ministry will begin.

Lithuania

Premier Dismisses 'Fuss' Over Russian Transit

WS1508120094 Tallinn BNS in English 1807 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Vilnius, Aug 12, BNS—Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius claimed "The Appeal on Lithuania's Security" is yet another attempt to increase social tension in Lithuania.

The appeal, which was circulated this week, was signed by more than a hundred well-known Lithuanian scholars, artists, performers, and statesman, who warned about the "Eurasian" threat to Lithuania and urged the government "not to legalize Russian military transit through Lithuania and not to allow the use of Lithuanian air space for the purpose." The appeal's authors also suggest to bar Russia from acquiring shares of Lithuanian enterprises and to prevent creation of Russian economic bases in Lithuania. The appeal urged the Lithuanian Government to start "actual struggle against the activities of destructive and other Russian structures in Lithuania and to protect Lithuanian state institutions from their influence."

At a press conference Friday, the premier said "the present fuss is not adequate to the problem that exists." In his words, the issue of military and dangerous cargo transit is "a very good medium for political speculations," but opponents close their eyes to the fact that such transit was carried out all the time, including the period when the present opposition was in power.

Slezevicius once again repeated that Lithuania should establish permanent transit rules, which would be applied to all countries, including Russia. "We must prevent uncontrolled transit if we want all processes in the country to go on according to our established order," the prime minister said.

In Slezevicius' words, competition is very big in the Baltic region and transit may soon be taken over by ports in the Kaliningrad region, Latvia or Estonia if favorable conditions are not created in Lithuania.

The premier said he is certain that some of the appeal's authors signed the document without going deep enough into the essence of the problem.

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